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29 April 1980

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 889

CONTENTS	PAGE
INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS	
Briefs	
DPRK Visitor to Bangladesh	1
Bangladesh-PRC Cultural Ties	1
Japanese Grant to Bangladesh	1
BANGLADESH	
President Addresses Ansar Force on Anniversary (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 21 Mar 80).....	2
Importance of Chittagong Hill Tracts Act Cited (Editorial; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 21 Mar 80).....	4
House Passes Foreign Private Investment Act (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 22 Mar 80).....	6
Oil Costs for 1979-80 Surpass 2-Year Plan Total (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 22 Mar 80).....	8
Zia Calls for Doubling of Foodgrain Production (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 21 Mar 80).....	10
INDIA	
Reddy Dissolves Delhi Metropolitan Council (THE PATRIOT, 22 Mar 80).....	12
New Head of Bombay Congress (I) Committee Appointed (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Mar 80).....	13

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Five Elected Unopposed to Upper House (THE PATRIOT, 22 Mar 80).....	14
Gandhi to Naga Leader: No Plans Against Government (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Mar 80).....	15
Lok Dal Leaders Move To Preserve Party Unity (THE HINDU, 21 Mar 80).....	17
Government May Let Harijans Have Guns (THE MUSLIM, 26 Mar 80).....	19
Government Plans Law To Control Emigre Workers (THE STATESMAN, 22 Mar 80).....	20
Government Moves for Balanced Regional Development (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Mar 80).....	22
Briefs	
Madras Refinery Output	24
Antiprofitteering Cells	24
New Upper House Member	24
Orissa Official Acquitted	25
High Commissioner to Malta	25
Envoy to Upper Volta	25

KAMPUCHEA

Briefs	
Phnom Penh Population	26

LAOS

Trade Sector Expands But Obstacles Still Hamper Free Circulation of Goods (Various sources, various dates).....	27
Vientiane Forest Products	
Outlet Opened in Saisettha	
Chantabouli, Sisatthanak Outlets	
Private Sector Involvement	
Barriers to Circulation of Goods	
Luang Prabang Security Problems, Economic Development Reported (SIANG PASASON, 6 Mar 80).....	31
Market Reacts to Currency Change (SIANG PASASON, 28 Dec 79).....	33

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Currency Circulation Problems Persist (Editorial; SIANG PASASON, 29 Feb 80).....	35
Localities Pay Rice Taxes, Sell Surplus Rice to State (VIENTIANE MAI, 1, 4, 5, 6 Mar 80).....	37
Nasaithong District Sales	
Thoulakhom District Taxes	
Paksane Taxes	
Vientiane Province Taxes	
Sikhottabong Taxes	
Vientiane Social Welfare Sector Assists Refugee Returnees (VIENTIANE MAI, 26 Dec 79).....	39
Refugee Return, Camps in Nong Khai Described (SIANG PASASON, 28 Dec 79).....	40
Reeducation Camp Inmate Classification System Described (VIENTIANE MAI, 3 Mar 80).....	42
Progress on Chinaimo Water Works Noted (SIANG PASASON, 27 Feb 80).....	45
Construction of Nam Souang Reservoir Described (SIANG PASASON, 27 Feb 80).....	46
Briefs	
Vientiane Agricultural Development	48
Oudomsai Cooperatives Established	48
Champassak Bank Deposits	48
Savannakhet Ice Cream Factory	48
Fishing Cooperative	49

PAKISTAN

Organized Action To Control Prices Urged (Editorial; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 5 Apr 80).....	50
Productive Use of Home Remittances Urged (Editorial; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Apr 80).....	52
Punjab Rice Cultivation Increased (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 7 Apr 80).....	53
Plan To Reorganize Milk, Meat Production (THE MUSLIM, 5 Apr 80).....	54

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Dispute Over Who Owns PL-480 Wheat Funds (Anwar Iqbal; THE MUSLIM, 5 Apr 80).....	55
Briefs	
Wheat Price Refixed	56
Major Crop Targets	56
Two Promising Wheat Varieties	56
Afghan Refugees in Baluchistan	57
SRI LANKA	
Freedom Party Reelects Bandaranaike as President (AFP, 4 Apr 80).....	58
Briefs	
Cooperation Agreements With France	59
OPEC Loan	59
THAILAND	
Prem Cabinet Biographic Sketches Reported (BAN MUANG, 13 Mar 80).....	60
Mineral Extraction in South Feels Impact of Oil Shortage (SIAM RAT BUSINESS WEEKLY, 19 Nov 79).....	72
Ore Smuggling Causes Loss in Government Revenue (SIAM RAT BUSINESS WEEKLY, 19 Nov 79).....	75

BRIEFS

DPRK VISITOR TO BANGLADESH--Mr Chang Guan Hak, vice minister for Higher Learning of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Dacca on Tuesday on a 6-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS. Mr Chang, who is heading a three-member official delegation was received on arrival by Education Secretary Kazi Faziur Rahman and the DPRK Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr Tak Gnan Chul. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Mar 80 p 1]

BANGLADESH-PRC CULTURAL TIES--Mr Zho Ji-Ping, leader of the visiting Beijing acrobatic troupe said in Dacca on Thursday that the prospect of cultural ties between Bangladesh and China was very "bright." Talking to BSS Mr Ping said that exchange of cultural troupes would be further strengthened existing friendship between the two countries which were already bounded by "deep" bonds. Mr Ping said that there should be more and more exchange of cultural teams and personalities between the two friendly countries and said that the visit of the acrobatic team was in return to the visit of two cultural teams from Bangladesh to China. The 46-member troupe during its stay performed eleven enthralling shows in Dacca and Comilla. Mr Mou Ping the Charge d'Affaires of China on Thursday evening held a reception in honor of the team. The reception was attended by cultural personalities members of the diplomatic corps and the elite. The team leaves Dacca today (Friday) for Sri Lanka. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Mar 80 p 1]

JAPANESE GRANT TO BANGLADESH--Bangladesh will receive Taka nine crore untied grant for purchase of commodities this year from Japan under an exchange of note signed in Dacca on Thursday between the two sides reports BSS. The notes were signed by Mr Mohammad Ali Joint Secretary External Resources Division and Mr Horonoro Ito, Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh on behalf of their governments. The grant has been provided as a debt relief of interest accrued to the loans so far given by Japan to Bangladesh. The first Japanese grant of Taka 7.66 crore was given last year. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 80 p 1]

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES ANSAR FORCE ON ANNIVERSARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Shafipur (Dacca), March 20--President Ziaur Rahman today said that allout efforts were underway to build up the Ansar force as the second line of defense force, reports BSS.

He was addressing the ceremonial parade of Bangladesh Ansar Force held in observance of its 32nd founding anniversary at the Ansar Training Centre here this morning.

The President said that the Government had taken various measures since 1976 providing more opportunities for the force to engage it in more disciplined way in the service of the nation which they did not get in the initial year after independence.

President Zia said that the valour and patriotism of the ansars in the War of Independence would remain ever fresh in the memory of the people.

In this context the President commended the role of the ansars in the development work along with their responsibility to maintain law and order, and national security.

President Zia lauded the role played by the ansars in the first and second phases of peaceful Revolution and expressed his firm belief that the members of the force would continue to uphold their glorious tradition by participating in and implementing the revolutionary programmes of the Government at different phases.

The President said that trained and regular ansar battalions were engaged in maintaining law and order, and national security. He said that measures were in progress to raise more ansar battalions to maintain law and order and to face emergencies resulting from natural calamities like cyclone and tidal bores in the coastal areas.

Besides, the woman-ansar battalion proved their professional ability over and above discharging responsibility towards their families.

President Zia said that the development work for the Shafipur Ansar Training Centre was going on.

President Zia had earlier taken salute from the ceremonial parade by six smartly turned out ansar battalions including a woman-ansar battalion.

He also witnessed physical and tactical exercises put up by the ansars.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Council of Ministers, Members of Parliament and high military and civil officials.

CSO: 4220

IMPORTANCE OF CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS ACT CITED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 80 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text] The statutory coverage for the development works initiated by the government in Chittagong Hill Tracts was one that was long expected. The passing of the bill on the subject by the Jatiya Sangsad goes to prove that the government is determined to step up developmental activities for the area, that remained largely out of the orbit of those activities in the past. And the Act is expected to bridge the gap between the expectation of the people and the efforts of the authorities for meeting them. The tempo of development will have a boost with the institution of the administrative authority needed to forge ahead with the works.

In the deliberations that took place in the Jatiya Sangsad a few points were prominently highlighted. They are related to the expansion of facilities for education, mass communication, farm development and the development of the tribal people. The spate of work appears to be more in the area of infrastructure, also needed for the expansion of business and industry in the area. With huge natural resources, the Hill Tracts offers a commendable opportunity to the entrepreneurs to invest. And the expenditure in those projects including those for rubber plantation and the like are likely to have good rate of returns to investment.

As stated by the Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on the floor of the House, "work on a multi-dimensional development programme at a cost of 39.5 million dollars financed by the World Bank was going on" in the Hill Tracts area. It is directed towards development of the infrastructure including roads and link roads building of schools and expansion of T.V. communication network and transmission facilities. The target population are the tribals and others who have gone into the otherwise virgin landmass of the Hill Tracts. It is needless to say that this programme, along with others, will usher in an era of change in the area.

The sociopolitical and geographical importance of the Hill Tracts are appreciated in the policy circles. The developmental programmes initiated

therein have to be put in the network of the plan. For this the administrative apparatus has been designed to be reset with room for representation of the local and tribal people on the Board. For the projects and programmes that are to be prepared for inclusion in the Five-Year Plan necessary institutional arrangement should be made. Likewise local supervision for the projects under implementation has also to be ensured by adopting rules under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Act.

The dimension of activities will widen with the allocation of more fund for the area. With the projections for the Second Five-Year Plan, it is expected that the development of the area will get a higher priority. Incidentally the provisions of the Act will open up a new facade of administrative arrangement, largely in the form of a local government agency and charged with multi dimensioned developmental activities. If the working of the same is found to be efficacious, this will not only supplement efforts but also work as an alternative to the present line-organizations implementing development programmes in various sectors in the country. This is where the Act offers a relevance and a new machinery for initiating and implementing development projects.

CSO: 4220

HOUSE PASSES FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT ACT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 80 pp 1, 16

[Text]

The Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act, 1980 was passed by voice vote in the Jatiyo Sangsad on Friday after two hours' debate.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister incharge of Industries Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed introduced the bill in the House. Seven amendments to various clauses moved by Professor Mofizul Islam (Jatiyo League) were rejected by voice vote. Proposal to circulate the bill for eliciting public opinion moved by Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman (Gano Front) was also rejected by voice vote. Professor Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP—M) did not move his amendment proposals.

Muslim League chief Khan A. Sabur participated in the discussion and welcomed the bill. Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman (GF), Mr. M. A. Matin, Mr. Abdus Sattar Khan Choudhury of Muslim League, Professor Mofizul Islam of Jatiyo League, Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP—M), Mr. Mohammad Toaha (Samayabadi Dal), Mr. Sirajul Haq (IDL) participated in the discussion. Mr. Zahiruddin Khan, Mr. Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui of BNP supported the bill.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed replying to observations by the Opposition clarified the Government stand. He emphatically declared that the Government would never accept monopoly foreign capital and would never encourage foreign capital which would go against the sovereignty and independence of the country.

Stressing the need for foreign investment for industrial development the Minister further said that the Government would be selective in inviting foreign investment.

He also informed the House that the Government controls all foreign investment in the country and accepts such investment as can be utilised in the interest of the nation. He also assured that the Government would maintain the present system of 81 per cent local investment and 40 per cent foreign investment in all cases as a measure of protection of national interest.

A great step

Terming the bill as a great step in economic sector of the country the Deputy Prime Minister informed the House that since 1947 the contribution from industry to Gross National Product (GNP) was about eight to 10 per cent only. During this time other countries have achieved tremendous success in their economic sector, he said.

He observed that although he was not opposed to nationalisation he had to say that in the name of nationalisation after independence so to say encouraging state capital the country's industry was made to collapse. He said the present Government changed its policy and was encouraging private investment which created a new horizon for industrialisation. He said during the last three years hundreds of industry came up in the pri-

vate sector in the country. He held that industrialisation will give the unemployed a gainful employment. As such the Government has taken steps to set up agro-based, export oriented industries and industries to produce basic needs of the people. The Government's second industrial development programme would be implemented in full during the Five Year Plan period, he said.

Congenial situation

On suggestions for creating situation for conducive investment the Minister said that the present Government restored the workers right to strike and collective bargain. He said that strike for realisation of demands by the workers does not mean creation of law and order situation in industrial areas.

Finally he drew the attention of the House to change of policy by countries like People's China for industrial development. He said the neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan and even India started a competition to attract foreign investment. He said that the bill was to create a situation conducive to investment. He expressed the hope that the passage of the bill will help attract foreign capital for industrial development of Bangladesh.

Muslim League Chief Khan A. Sabur welcoming the bill suggested return of nationalised industries owned by Bangladeshis as a pre-condition for industrialisation. He observed

that nationalisation of industry becomes necessary when industrialisation reaches a saturation point. He said if we can get rid of the ghost of nationalisation of industry it is only then the foreign investors will be attracted to invest their capital. He said on a number of occasions the President of the country on return from abroad said that foreign entrepreneurs will be coming to invest. But none has yet come forward to invest because 'we have not yet abandoned the policy of nationalisation.'

The Muslim League chief observed that the Government could get rid of the responsibility of paying compensation nationalised industries if those were denationalised. He called upon the Government to take cautious steps in this regard.

Mr. A S M. Solaiman reminding the House of the factors for investment requested the House to ponder whether the situation was conducive to inviting foreign investment. He said that foreign investment was necessary but we must ensure peace in industry security of capital and life. He said the late employees non-gazetted government employees were on strike. The Government must take steps to remove the cause of discontent before inviting foreign capital.

He also observed that if investment by local entrepreneurs were not encouraged investment of foreign capital will create imbalance in the industrial sector.

Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP) stressing the need for foreign investment said that it should be without any strings, otherwise we would be led to a situation like South Korea. He expressed the opinion that threat to the sovereignty of the country always comes in the garb of foreign investment. He held that the grants and assistance by imperialist countries was a weapon of exploitation to make the underdeveloped countries dependent on them. He observed that the local agents of the imperialism who were opposed to nationalisation enjoy the benefits of the assistance and grant in the country. He was interrupted by Industries Minister

saying that his remarks were irrelevant. He was using notes and Mr. M.A. Matin interrupting him urged the Speaker to allow him to read the brief Mr. Ahmed received from the Soviet Union.

Mr. Ahmed further observed that some of the friends also find crocodile in canal digging but they fail to find crocodiles who would oppose to nationalisation.

Need of capital

Although he did not categorically oppose the bill, Mr. Ahmed held the view that welcoming the foreign investors was the first step to surrender our sovereignty to imperialism. He urged the Government to be cautious so that the investors in future do not get any chance to dictate terms.

Professor Mofizul Islam supported Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed and agreed to the need of foreign capital for industrialisation. He said that now the socialist countries also invite foreign capital when necessary. He said he was of the same opinion with Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed that if we do not protect our interest now the sovereignty of the country would be sold at nominal price.

He suggested investment of foreign capital through collaboration with local entrepreneurs. He said India and Pakistan have solved their problem of capital through encouraging collaboration. He also argued that if collaboration was not encouraged in case of liquidation of certain industry by the foreign investors in future vacuum will be created.

While moving amendment Mr. Islam also suggested that payment of compensation should be on book value not market value.

Mr. Mohammad Toaha suggested removal of discontent in industry as a precondition of inviting foreign investment. He said People's China invited foreign capital because they have a government of the exploited and the government has full control on all capital. If that was the situation in our country he would have been happy to hold.

OIL COSTS FOR 1979-80 SURPASS 2-YEAR PLAN TOTAL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 80 p 7

[Text] The POL (Petroleum, Oil & Lubricants) import bill for Bangladesh will be around Taka 708 crore for the current financial year (1979-80). Of course, any new hike in oil prices from now on to June '80 will escalate the bill further. It is difficult to give an exact figure of the foreign exchange requirements for importing oil and petroleum products in view of the sudden and frequent increase in the price oil in the international market in the recent times.

For a developing economy like ours with per capita POL consumption per annum at five gallons (which is incidentally one of the lowest in the world) the POL import bill at over 700 crore taka per annum is indeed a huge amount. It is almost about 65 percent of the country's projected export earnings for the current fiscal year. The ever increasing POL import bill is thus aggravating the country's pressing balance of payments difficulties.

What is even more worrisome for the policy planners is the fact that the Government, if the existing prices of petroleum products are kept unchanged in the domestic market, will have to incur out of the public exchequer a sum of Taka 122 crore as purchase subsidies as a result of selling the petroleum products below the prices in the international market. Such huge quantum of purchase subsidy on POL alone has its obvious, adverse implications on the overall position relating to budgetary resource allocation and mobilisation of domestic savings.

The Government, to mention here, had announced in November last year an upward revision of sale prices of petroleum products in the domestic market in November last year when the price of petrol (motor spirit) was increased from Taka 52.71 to Taka 37.50 per gallon [as published] representing an increase of 45.47 percent. This revision followed another hike in the domestic sale prices of petroleum products, made in April last year.

According to an official account, the crude oil prices in the international markets recorded a rise by about 88 percent since April last till

to-date while the domestic sale prices of refined petroleum products were raised by about 30 percent on an average during the same period. Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister stated last week in this connection that the Government was making all out efforts not to raise the prices of petroleum products further in the near future.

It is to be pointed out that the upward revision in the prices of petroleum products in the domestic market at the consumers' level on two occasions last year--once in April and then in November--had already its effects on the economy in the form of hike in transport costs such as buses and launch fares etc. The costs of operations of the irrigation units in the agricultural sector have also gone up due to the rise in fuel charges. As such any further rise in petroleum prices at the consumers will surely generate fresh inflation--fuelling pressures within the economy.

Meanwhile, the oil price-hike in the international markets has adversely affected the balance of payments strategy for the Two-Year-Plan. It was stipulated in the Plan document that the value of import of crude oil and petroleum products during the Plan period (1978-80) would be about 447.88 crore Taka. In reality, the estimated expenditures on POL import for one year alone in 1979-80 at Taka 708 crore would be far beyond the stipulated amount for the Two-Year Plan period. It is to be mentioned here that the country had almost a similar experience with regard to the POL import bill during the First Five-Year Plan (1973-78) which resulted in using up of a huge quantum of scarce foreign exchanges for the import of crude oil and petroleum products. The value of POL imports during the First Plan period exceeded US dollars 650 million as against Plan target of US dollars 425 million mainly due to the rise in price.

It is noteworthy here that the authors of the TYP estimated the import requirements of crude petroleum in the country at ten lakh tons annually. But, in reality the actual imports have turned out to be higher than the estimated level. The quantum of crude oil imports during July-February period of the current financial year was about 11.39 lakh tons. In arriving at the import requirements at the time of the formulation of the TYP, higher domestic production of kerosene and high speed diesel as well as possible import substitution in gas and electricity were assumed. But the assumption did not prove to be realistic. The import substitution through the utilisation of gas could not make much headway.

CSO: 4220

ZIA CALLS FOR DOUBLING OF FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Rajshahi March 20: President Ziaur Rahman today reiterated his call to the people to associate themselves with the development efforts of the Government through peaceful revolution now going on in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing huge-public meetings at Bagmara and Godagari President exhorted the people to work hard for achieving the national goal of doubling food production. He advised them to reexcavate the old canals and utilise them properly.

The President said the country would earn huge amounts in foreign exchange by exporting surplus food if the production could be doubled. He asked the people to cultivate fish in the canals besides utilising their water for irrigation during the dry season.

Canal Digging

Referring to the canal digging programme throughout the country President Zia said no nation could prosper without hard labour and added, Allah helps those who help themselves.

The President asked the people to help recover unauthorised arms from the possession of anti-social elements by extending whole-hearted cooperation to the Government efforts. In this connection he sounded a note of strong warning against those who are still holding illegal arms.

About the second phase of the Revolution--removal of illiteracy from the country--he urged the educated section of the people to cooperate in setting up organisations in villages with a view to implementing the programme.

The President congratulated the people for digging canals on voluntary basis and advised them to dig more canals in their respective areas.

He said no one would be allowed to beg and added that everyone of us should work harder to meet the basic needs.

President Zia also inaugurated the Khujipur-Shailpara-Dipnagar Khal at Bagmara and Madirpur--Dudhail Khal at Godagari in presence of big crowds.

The six-mile canal at Bagmara and the eight-mile canal at Godagari excavated by voluntary labour will irrigate about 4,000 acres of land in the areas and produce over 150,000 maunds of additional crops.

CSO: 4220

REDDY DISSOLVES DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 22 Mar 80 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT NEELAM SANJIVA REDDY DISSOLVED THE 33-MONTH-OLD DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ON FRIDAY MORNING SOON AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE CAPITAL IN HIS ORDER HE ALSO SUSPENDED VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE DELHI ADMINISTRATION ACT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, LEADING POLITICAL CIRCLES IN THE CITY TO BELIEVE THAT FRESH ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

All powers are now vested in Lt-Governor Jagmohan. Mr Jagmohan had earlier sent his report on the situation in the Capital to the President. The official Rashtrapati Bhavan notification said the President was satisfied after receiving the report that a situation had arisen in which "administration of the Union Territory cannot be carried out in accordance with the Act".

In a last minute effort to stave off the inevitable dissolution, Delhi's Chief Executive Councillor Kedar Nath Sahani and Executive Councillors Madan Lal Khurana and Rajesh Sharma sent a telegram to the President followed by a letter pleading that they be given an opportunity to explain "the true situation" before the President acted on Mr Jagmohan's recommendations.

This is the first time that the Metropolitan Council of Delhi has been dissolved. The last Executive Council headed by Mr Radha Raman of the Congress had been dissolved by the Janata Party after coming into power, but by that time, the Council had already spent its five-year-term and was in the middle of its extended sixth year. The current Council came into being in June 1977, and its term was to expire in 1982. though long expected because of irreconcilable differences between the ruling Janata Party and the Lt-Governor, nonetheless raised a strong protest in the Capital. with outgoing Chief Executive Councillor Kedar Nath Sahani,

CSO: 1770

NEW HEAD OF BOMBAY CONGRESS (I) COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Bombay, March 20: Mr Bhanushanker Yagnik has been appointed president of the Bombay regional coordination committee of the Congress (I).

Mr Yagnik told this reporter that he was informed of the high command's decision over phone by the party general-secretary, Mr Buta Singh, today.

The appointment of Mr Yagnik, an ex-president of the erstwhile, BPCC, is considered by observers as an astute move by the Congress (I). It is regarded as an effort to ensure the support of Bujarati voters who form a sizeable chunk of the city electorate. This section had given good support to the Janata in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Many of the Gujarati voters' alienation from the Congress (I) then, among other things, was due to the manhandling of Mr Yagnik on the eve of the polls, allegedly by some party workers. However, his appointment in the place of Mr N.M. Kamble, is likely to pay the party good dividends in the coming assembly elections.

Mr Yagnik would be flying to the capital tomorrow with a list of office-bearers and the same would be finalised after consultations with Mrs Indira Gandhi and other leaders. According to Mr Yagnik, the party election strategy for the city would also be discussed with the high command.

The backing received by Mr Yagnik from leaders in New Delhi and the imminent appointment of other office-bearers is expected to tone up the city organisation which has been in bad shape, like the state unit, because of the tussle between the loyalists and the newcomers. According to party sources, the central leadership was likely to step in and set matters right in the MPCC also so that the organisation is not at a disadvantage when going to the polls.

Meanwhile, the president of the Bombay Youth Congress (I), Mr D. N. Dhaulkar, has alleged that the MPCC(I) general secretary, Mr Prabhakar Kunte, was "trying to create dissensions" in the youth front in an effort to curb its growth." The Youth Congress has demanded 100 seats out of the total of 288 in the state assembly. It has asked for 20 seats each from Bombay, Konkan, western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha.

THREE ELECTED UNOPPOSED TO UPPER HOUSE

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 22 Mar 80 p 1

[Text]

FIVE new members were elected to the Rajya Sabha on Friday unopposed from three States, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tripura, report UNI, PTL.

Of these three were from Kerala in the biennial elections.

Mr O Joseph (CPI-M), Mr C Haridas (Cong-U), both of the ruling Left Democratic Front, and Mr B V Abdulla Koya (Muslim League) of the Opposition United Democratic Front, were returned unopposed as they were the only candidates to have filed nominations to the three vacancies from Kerala. Friday was the last day for withdrawal of nominations.

The three members, who are

retiring at the end of the month are, Mr V Viswanatha Menon (CPI-M), Mrs Leela Damodara Menon (Cong-U) and Mr Abdulla Koya.

In Bangalore, Mr B Ibrahim (Cong-I) was declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from the Karnataka Assembly in a by-election, caused by the resignation of Mr H R Basavara (Cong-U).

In Agartala, CPI-M candidate Ila Bhattacharjee, chairman of the State Social Welfare Board, was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Tripura.

Tripura has only one seat in the Rajya Sabha.

END

GANDHI TO NAGA LEADER: NO PLANS AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] The Nagaland chief minister, Mr Vizol, has been able to get an assurance from the Prime Minister that there was no intention of overthrowing his government.

Mr Vizol secured this assurance after his meeting with Mrs Gandhi, the union home minister, Mr Zail Singh, and the Union commerce minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

He rushed to Delhi three days ago after he was able to ward off the threat to his UDF government, even though temporarily. Two of his party members were abetting the united opposition led by Mr T. Ngulie, former chief minister, Mr J.K. Jasoki, Mr Hekishe Sema and Mr Kaikon to overthrow his government.

When the Nagaland assembly commenced its budget session on March 6, there were rumours in the state that some UDF legislators would join the opposition party and oust the Vizol ministry. It was said that the Central leaders were supporting the move. Mr Mukherjee has promised full support to the dissidents. The UDF at present has 42 members in the 60-member legislative assembly. Two seats are vacant.

Mr Vizol today told the press here that Mrs Gandhi had assured him that political stability in the state would not be disturbed. The Centre had no intention of destabilising the present set-up in Nagaland.

It is, however, learnt that Mr Vizol offered full support to the Congress (I) government at the Centre. He told them that if the Central leaders so wished, he would voluntarily retire. They accepted Mr Vizol's plea that it would not serve any purpose if the UDF joined the Congress (I). The UDF was a regional party and it in no way clashed with the ruling party at the Centre. Nagaland had been ravaged by insurgency for 20 years. During the last two years he was able to establish peace and normalcy, he pointed out.

Poll Understanding

Mr Vizol and the Congress (I) leaders at the Centre, it is learnt, have come to an understanding on the election of one Rajya Sabha member from Nagaland, who would give full support to the Congress (I).

Mr Vizol said that there was no law-and-order problem in the state. The main problems facing the state were the development of road and rail network, linking various districts with an efficient communication system and developing projects to provide more employment.

He pointed out that insurgents confined their activity on the other side of the state border with Burma.

Mr Vizol said that the Sunderam committee's report on the demarcation of the boundary between Assam and Nagaland had been rejected by both the states. Nagaland had submitted its case to the Centre.

CSO: 4220

LOK DAL LEADERS MOVE TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 20. Prominent leaders of the Lok Dal today publicly committed themselves to maintaining the unity of the party. "Only through such unity will it be possible to stem the march of authoritarian forces in India," they said in a statement.

The signatories to the statement belonged mainly to the erstwhile Socialist and SSP factions and this was an indirect warning to Mr Raj Narain that he could not count on their support if he wanted to pursue his grudge against Mr Charan Singh, the Lok Dal President.

The statement called upon party members "to set aside all other considerations and strengthen the unity of the party and broaden the mass base."

The leaders who joined together in scotching rumours about an imminent split in the party included Messrs. Mama Baleshwar Dayal, Devi Lal, Karpoori Thakur, George Fernandes, Rameshwar Singh, Rabi Ray and Madhu Limaye.

The concurrence of Mr Devi Lal to append his signature gave the appeal a multi-faction dimension.

Meanwhile, Mr Limaye today convened a meeting of the Lok Dal national executive committee on March 29 to set up a Central Parliamentary Board and deal with matters relating to the Assembly elections.

Another important item before the national executive will be the formation of a disciplinary committee to look into complaints about acts of indiscipline, especially those relating to the recent Lok Sabha poll.

Mr Limaye explained that this was a usual meeting of the executive and had nothing to do with considering the letters recently exchanged by Mr Charan Singh and Mr Raj Narain.

But the fact that the question of setting up a Central Parliamentary Board will come up before the executive suggests that Mr Raj Narain's claim that

the notice issued by Mr Limaye on March 12 appointing a 15-member board under his chairmanship was irrevocable has gone by the board. Whether Mr Raj Narain will take it lying down is not clear.

Even if Mr Raj Narain has put a rein on his tongue for the past couple of days at the request of Mr Limaye and other colleagues, his "followers" in Lucknow are making a lot of noise about the "compromise formula" being unacceptable to them.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT MAY LET HARIJANS HAVE GUNS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 25: The Indian Government is seriously considering issuing arms licences to Harijans (Untouchables), so that they can defend themselves against the increasing number of attacks by higher caste Hindus. Disclosing this in Parliament the Home Minister, Zail Singh, said the licences would only go to Untouchables who are devoid of caste feeling.

The Lok Sabha (Lower House) was debating atrocities committed against Harijans, and in particular, an attack at the weekend in the town of Moradabad, 100 miles east of Delhi, when Harijan huts were set ablaze. Three people were reported burnt alive, and more than 1,200 others made homeless. The attack, apparently, stemmed from a legal dispute over land between a landlord and some Harijans, which the court found in the Harijans' favour.

According to official statistics, more than 37,500 cases of crimes against Harijans and members of scheduled castes have been registered in 20 of India's states during the past year.

The Home Minister told the House that Mrs Gandhi's Government had summoned a meeting of Governors and State Chief Secretaries to discuss ways of tackling the situation. "The need of the hour is communal harmony," Mr Singh said.

The Government was also considering amending rules in the police manual to "make them conform to present-day needs." Mr Singh said each of the Harijan families whose huts had been destroyed in the Moradabad attack would be given 200 rupees (about pound 11) from the Prime Minister's relief fund.

The idea of arming Harijans, while starting, is not new, although this is the first time it has formed part of official government thinking. Last year, the Bihar state government decided that Untouchables should be trained in the use of guns so that they could protect themselves against powerful sections which used violence to maintain their stranglehold over them. The first of 110 Harijans began weapons training in the Halanda district late in December. State sources said the men would be eligible for guns for collective use at a later state.--THE MUSLIM-GUARDIAN Service.

GOVERNMENT PLANS LAW TO CONTROL EMIGRE WORKERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Mar 80 pp 1,7

[Text] New Delhi, March 21.--The Centre is drafting a law for Indians going abroad for jobs. An official recruitment agency will be set up.

Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Union Minister for External Affairs, told the Rajya Sabha today that the law was being prepared by the Union Ministry of Labour. His Ministry would act in coordination with the Labour Ministry.

The new law and the official agency have been proposed by Ministerial delegations which visited the Gulf countries. Under the new law, a strict watch will be kept on Indians working in those countries.

The chairman, Mr H. Hidayatullah, told the Minister that the consensus of the House was that the private recruiting agencies be scrapped. Mr Rao said he would convey the suggestion to the Labour Ministry.

The Indian missions in the Gulf countries were trying to ensure that the Indians were not deported and their "stay" was regularized.

The Government of India was aware of the problems of Indian immigrants in the United Arab Emirates and was taking steps to safeguard their interests. The Government was in touch with the UAE authorities. The official delegation, headed by a secretary to the Government, recently visited the UAE and held discussions to minimize personal and economic hardships of the affected Indian workers, the Minister said. The Government had suggested to the UAE authorities that those with valid papers should not be disturbed and those who had secured fresh employment should be given time to have their papers regularized. "Our approach to the foreign Governments concerned is to consider the matter on humanitarian grounds," Mr Narasimha Rao explained.

Asked who was in charge of handling the problem of Indian labour stranded in the UAE, he said both the External Affairs Ministry and the Labour Ministry were working in close coordination.

The Minister said that the persons affected included those who had entered the UAE on employment visas but were no longer working with their original sponsors, those who had entered that country illegally without valid visas, and those whose resident permits had expired.

The UAE authorities had stated that their measures were nondiscriminatory and applicable to all expatriate workers. The Government had received no reports of discrimination against Indian nationals, he said.

Mr Rao assured the House that "Our Embassy in Abu Dhabi and our Consulate General in Dubai are providing all assistance to workers. Our offices are being kept open beyond office hours to expeditiously deal with cases. The UAE authorities have been requested to adopt a liberal and flexible approach recognising the humanitarian aspects involved."

Submitting figures, Mr Narasimha Rao said that the number of illegal immigrants in the Gulf countries was "high." But the number of legal Indian immigrants was 200,000 in the UAE and 80,000 in Kuwait and in the United Arab Republic.

Replying to supplementaries, the Minister said that no new law had been enforced in the Gulf countries. But the authorities there had become more stringent. The "cut-off" date was February 21 but a reprieve of four months had been given following efforts by the Indian delegation.

He said that eight private recruiting agencies had been "convicted." The number of people convicted was 120. Some cases were also pending.

Indians going to the Gulf countries "are victims of their folly and greed." the chairman remarked.

He made the observation when the External Affairs Minister was replying to supplementaries on the deportation of Indians. However, Mr N.K.P. Salve (Congress-I) felt that the Indian workers "are victims of needs."

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT MOVES FOR BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 80 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, March 20. To promote balanced development of different regions of the country, the government has decided to lay down a new condition for the grant of letters of intent or licence. This would be in addition to the other standard conditions.

Under it, the new unit should not be located within the standard urban area limit of a large metropolitan city having a population of more than one million or in the urban area of a city with a population of more than 500,000 as per the 1971 census.

The government's policy laying emphasis on small-scale industries in the rural and semi-urban areas was contained in a written answer by Dr Charanjit Chanaana, minister of state for industry, to a question put by Mrs Pratibha Singh and Mrs Sushila Adivarekar.

The government's hope is that this policy would enable quicker development of the industrially backward areas in the country. For this purpose, the government is offering several inducements for setting up industrial units in the backward areas.

It has decided that if an undertaking wishes to shift its manufacturing activity, either in part or whole, from a forward area to a backward area or from one notified area to another within the same state it would be enough to obtain the prior permission of the state government concerned. No permission from the Central government would be necessary.

In the case of applications for establishing units in the prohibited metropolitan and urban areas, the applicants would be sounded as to whether they are prepared to set up their unit in the industrially less developed areas.

Registration of new units and expansion of capacity by the existing units to manufacture certain items in the small-scale sector is banned. However, the government has relaxed the conditions for setting up units in the backward areas in the following items: Manufacture of stainless steel

products (domestic utensils, wiper blades made of stainless steel strips and hospital equipment and furniture made of stainless steel sheets and strips), plastic products made from polythene, cork stoppers, aluminum wires and cables, tin containers and other products made from tin sheets, stainless steel watch straps, PVC footwear and zinc oxide.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MADRAS REFINERY OUTPUT--New Delhi, March 20: The Union cabinet, it is understood, today approved a proposal to expand the refining capacity of the Madras refinery from 2.8 million tonnes of crude per year to 5.6 million tonnes. Facilities for secondary processing will also be correspondingly increased. The expansion project, which is likely to cost about Rs. 54.78 crores, is expected to be completed with the help of Engineers India in two to three years. An investment of Rs. 13.12 crores, with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 1.75 crores, for the production of benzine, toluene and other aromatics by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation in Bombay was also sanctioned. The project is likely to be completed in three to four years. Over Rs 17.75 crores will be invested in the Petrofils Corporation at Baroda to increase its capacity to produce polyester filament from 3,500 tonnes to 7,500 tonnes every year. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 80 p 1]

ANTI-PROFITEERING CELLS--Nagpur, March 20 (PTI): Special cells to deal with offences under the essential commodities act and for prevention of blackmarketing have been set up in all the districts of Maharashtra, Mr A.N. Banerjee, adviser to the state governor, told newsmen here today. Mr Banerjee said these special cells would include officials of the civil supplies department and the police department and would function under a senior police officer. Mr Banerjee hoped that the stringent measures now being initiated would curb profiteering and hoarding and ensure equitable distribution of essential commodities. Mr Banerjee, who arrived here last evening, had a series of meetings with officials of the civil supplies and the police department. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 80 p 1]

NEW UPPER HOUSE MEMBER--Bangalore, March 21: Mr B. Ibrahim, general secretary of the South Kanara district Congress (I) committee, was officially declared elected without a contest today in the by-election to the Raiya Sabha from Karnataka. Mr Ibrahim is an advocate and former public prosecutor. His was the only nomination to be filed for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr H. K. Basavaraj following the latter's defeat in the Lok Sabha elections as a Congress (U) candidate. He has since joined the Congress (I). [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 80 p 13]

ORISSA OFFICIAL ACQUITTED--Bhubaneswar, March 21.--Mr B. N. Mishra, Special Judge, Bhubaneswar, today acquitted Mrs Nandini Satpathy, former Chief Minister of Orissa, of all the eight charges of corruption filed by the Orissa Vigilance Police under Section V(1) (D) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In his judgment, Mr Mishra, however, rejected the defence contention that the case against Mrs Satpathy had been "concocted" to tarnish her image. He held her not guilty of the charges of utilization of services of Government officials and of obtaining pecuniary benefits totalling Rs 100,000. Mrs Satpathy was not present in court when the judgment was delivered. The judge observed that there was no material on record to substantiate the contention of the defence that investigation of the case against her was "perfunctory or mala fide or that the case has been instituted against her by her opponents on account of political rivalry."

[Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Mar 80 p 1]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA--Narendra Singh, ambassador of India to Libya, has been concurrently accredited as high commissioner of India to Malta with residence at Tripoli in succession to Ambady Krishanan Damodaran, formerly ambassador of India to Italy. [Text] [BK111241 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1442 GMT 8 Apr 80 BK]

ENVOY TO UPPER VOLTA--Pascal Alan Nazareth, ambassador of India to Upper Volta (resident in Accra), presented his credentials to H.E. Gen Aboubacar Sangoule Lamizana on 4 April at a colorful ceremony at the presidential palace in Chacadougou. [Excerpt] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1447 GMT 9 Apr 80 BK]

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

PHNOM PENH POPULATION--A cadre working in the Ministry of Propaganda, Information and Culture of the People's Republic of Kampuchea said that the population of the capital of Phnom Penh now included cadres, government workers, soldiers, police, and others and totaled more than 110,000. Four schools have reopened; one of which is a secondary school. Two national theater and entertainment halls opened and are putting on shows. There are five movie houses which are improved to serve the masses and two of these are to serve the people [as published]. There are three hospitals; the largest is the 7 January Hospital. One-tenth of the artists survived the Pol Pot regime. [Excerpts] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Dec 79 p 2] 8149

CSO: 4206

TRADE SECTOR EXPANDS BUT OBSTACLES STILL HAMPER FREE CIRCULATION OF GOODS

Vientiane Forest Products

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 29 Feb 80 p 1

[Text] During 1979-80 officials of the forest products purchasing/bartering unit of the Vientiane City and province Department of Industry and Trade and of state stores in the various districts have been busy buying forest and other products from the people with satisfactory results.

During this period they have been able to buy several thousand tons of thun, thok, and hangmu varieties of rattan, kapok, yellow beans, red beans, hardwood trees, buffalo bones, monkey bones, Yang-wood products, Si-wood products, etc.

They are valued at 103,568,225 bank kip.

The purchase of forest products from the people is a means of implementing socialist trade guidance to expand trade between the state and the people, to provide income to families, and to permit the state to amass funds for use in national development.

Outlet Opened in Saisettha

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 20 Feb 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] On the morning of 14 February the board of directors of the Food-stuffs Company, which is subordinate to the city and province of Vientiane Department of Industry and Trade, officially opened a new state store with six permanent employees in Saisettha district.

The goods which are being offered for sale include rice, milk, sugar, salt, "padek" fish, flour, fish sauce, sa-io water, cakes, beer, sweet drinks, etc. They will also buy agricultural products from the people, such as cattle, buffaloes, pigs, rice, etc.

At the present time the employees of the foodstuffs store are striving to provide service with a smile to the people of that locality and to create

good will with the population which uses the food which the state brings to them freely and fully. The people comment that the state is serving the needs of the people for food and at the same time is encouraging further expansion of production.

Chantabouli, Sisatthanak Outlets

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 19 Feb 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] His Excellency Chanven, chairman of the board of directors of the Foodstuffs Company, which is subordinate to the Vientiane City and province Department of Industry and Trade, announced that the company would operate in accordance with the letter and spirit of the party Central Committee's resolution number 7 and the 1980 plan of Vientiane City and province and use commercial work as the harness of the economic system, use communications as the spearhead to smash small-scale, nature-dependent production, raise the people's standard of living materially and spiritually, and develop a spirit of revolutionary fervor in the building of a socialist economy successfully.

In early February the Vientiane Foodstuffs Company extended its commercial outlets into people's bases, one in Chantabouli and one in Sisatthanak. In both locations there are six employees with the mission of offering rice, milk, sugar, canned meat, canned fish, "padek" fish, beer, soft drinks, etc., for sale to the people freely as well as to buy the agricultural products of the people, particularly rice, cattle, buffaloes, pigs, ducks, chickens, etc.

In addition, offices, basic production organizations, state or private enterprises, schools, or hospitals, for example the Hotel Company, Vientiane restaurants, and hospitals that need to buy meat and fish regularly each day may sign a contract to arrange for convenient purchases. This is so the consumption needs of the masses can be guaranteed to be met in timely fashion.

Private Sector Involvement

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 19 Feb 80 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] On the afternoon of 16 February the cadres and workers of the Private Trade Control Division of the Vientiane City and province Department of Industry and Trade held a lively ceremony to recap the accomplishments of 1980 [sic] and to pass the working plan for 1980.

Then the working plan for 1980 was read. It would expedite expansion of joint state and private commercial outlets, "to shrink total trade along the socialist path," on a concept of leadership where the state controls and the people are masters.

It would be especially productive to concentrate on enlarging state trading, even private trading, and to work on thorough and fair dissemination to all production bases of the working people. They will also have the duty to buy industrial and handicraft products from the people and to distribute them to small, private merchants, national capitalists, and craftsmen in order to strengthen distribution of their products and to encourage both state and private factories that have been damaged to resume normal production. This will encourage production and improve the people's standard of living in accordance with the letter and spirit of the party Central Committee's resolution number 7.

Barriers to Circulation of Goods

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 23 Feb 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] Resolution number 5 of the party Central Committee and the joint congress in early 1979 of the Supreme People's Council and the Council of Ministers specified that: "Trade is the primary vehicle for encouraging the restoration and expansion of the economy and for normalization of the living conditions of the people." Operating in accordance with this guidance in the period since then, our party and state have tried to fulfill a number of the most urgent needs of battle, production, and the jobs and living conditions of the people. State and joint trade outlets have been expanded widely from the cities into rural areas. The total volume of goods sold in 1978 was about 10.5 billion (liberation kip) and generally speaking the volume of goods on hand and which the state will bring in will be capable of satisfying the most basic needs of the people.

Even though our trade has progressed a little we must acknowledge that our work in this area during this period had several shortcomings. Purchases did not go according to plan. Extremely few goods reached the hands of the people, particularly in mountainous areas. Many goods were damaged due to inadequate care. Prohibitions against coming to market, closings of roads, arbitrary establishment of inspection stations and collection of taxes, illegal seizure of people's property, theft of people's possessions, and restrictions on movement of goods between different areas all were not inconsiderable obstacles to production and our people's living conditions.

Thus in the immediate future the most important problem concerning trade is to overcome all of these shortcomings little by little. Then there must be an expansion of sources of domestically produced goods, aid goods, and imports so the state will have sufficient goods to meet the needs of production and the people's living conditions. We must adopt the attitude that service to production and people's living conditions and the task of socialist reconstruction are primary motivations, not the profit motive or one's own convenience. Therefore we must mount an offensive to encourage traffic in goods and division of labor and to create sources of goods and not sit back in a defensive posture and wait for goods to appear.

State trading must expand strongly in various sectors, namely: Strength of goods, bases of technical materials, investment, organization, cadres, outlets, and business territories in order to increase the capability to direct markets. Above all state trading must widen sales territories particularly in primary markets such as in Vientiane, Savannakhet, Luang Prabang, and Champassak. As for the rural areas there must be an expansion of purchasing cooperatives to help state trading accomplish its mission of widening the traffic in goods between the cities and rural areas and of maintaining stable markets and prices serving production and the people's living conditions.

In addition in order to broaden distribution of goods within the country, under present conditions, there continues to be a definite role for private commerce. Thus, we must use them as retail sales representatives or let them purchase agricultural and forest products from the people for state trading organizations which may concentrate on encouraging distribution of goods between localities and between the cities and rural areas and on correcting weaknesses and carrying out the functions discussed above efficiently. Trade in our country will then begin a new chapter with well-stocked markets and stable prices which will encourage production and improve steadily our people's living conditions.

8947

CSO: 4206

LUANG PRABANG SECURITY PROBLEMS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 6 Mar 80 pp 2, 3

[Text] Luang Prabang is a province which lies in the northern part of our country bordering on Xieng Vhouang, Sam Neua, Sayaburi, and Vientiane provinces with an area of 57,200 [square] kilometers, and with 9 districts, 72 cantons, 1,100 villages, over 30,000 families, and 252,906 inhabitants comprised of three main ethnic groupings, low-land Lao, up-land Lao, and highland Lao and a great many tribal groups. Following the defeat of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary faction in Kampuchea, a border war broke out between China and Vietnam and the Chinese reactionaries massed large forces near the borders of the three northern provinces of Laos. At the same time they obstinately and openly poured weapons, money, support, and aid into expatriate Lao reactionaries to help them conduct activities to destroy the peace and independence of the Lao nation. In Luang Prabang, specifically, they worked on activities taking different forms in each area. For example they sent spies and fifth columnists in to disturb the peace and quiet of our multi-ethnic people, to make contact with local reactionary groups, to propagandize, and to bribe or persuade the people to flee abroad. They sent squads and platoons of pillagers to conduct activities in Luang Prabang via Nan, Chomphet, and Chiang Ngeun districts and in the Phonsai district/Xieng Khouang Province border area. Faced with this situation the provincial party committee and military headquarters, based on party and party military committee resolutions, mobilized the people to perform two main tasks: To create forces and train them to fight to prepare a battlefield for people's war and to expedite economic development to improve the living conditions of soldiers, cadres, and the people steadily.

Through this mobilization and constant urging the cadres, soldiers, and people throughout the province achieved a deep understanding of their duties. Every district has encouraged a patriotic reawakening of the people and a high sense of alertness and preparedness for battle. This has been exhibited in the preparation of foodstuffs for the front lines and the organization of a system of civil defense. Every canton in every district has resolutely formed and improved guerrilla units which number many companies and battalions. They have studied battle theory, and specialized subjects like martial arts and guerrilla tactics. After completing their training each local unit

has actively tried to protect peace and order in its own locale. In Pak Seng district they have actively demolished the reactionary underground and have captured three henchmen of the international reactionaries. In Luang Prabang district they have coordinated forces with regular peace-keeping authorities to be able to capture 293 persons who oppose the revolution and other undesirables and have sent 51 persons dangerous to society for reeducation. This has restored Luang Prabang Province to a peaceful state and has produced a firm belief that the dedicated leadership of the efforts to protect and build the nation, under the leadership of the party, will achieve certain success. Coupled with the attention given to national defense and equally successful, in the past year Luang Prabang Province has not lessened its encouragement of production and expansion of agricultural production. It has established 53 agricultural cooperatives having a total of 17,096 members; 39,875.1 hectares of dry field rice was planted with 2,392,506 kilograms of seed of which 2,311.75 hectares were planted with 92,472 kilograms of seed by agricultural cooperatives; 7,427.7 hectares of paddy rice were planted with 297,108 kilograms of seed, including 162.6 hectares of newly cleared land planted with 6,504 kilograms of seed, of which 2,540.8 hectares were planted with 101,332 kilograms of seed by agricultural cooperatives, including 10 hectares of newly cleared land planted with 400 kilograms of seed. Some 486.5 hectares of manioc were grown of which 26 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 7,039.2 hectares of wheat were grown, of which 6.6 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 4,074.7 hectares of green and yellow beans were grown of which 14.6 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 1,700.3 hectares of peanuts were grown of which 2 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 44.1 hectares of sugar cane were grown of which 0.45 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 2,502.5 hectares of cotton were grown of which 3 hectares were grown by agricultural cooperatives; 1,300 hectares were planted with fruit trees and 2 hectares with lumber trees; 314,256 fowl, 52,806 pigs, 29,652 buffaloes, 8,254 cattle, 5,010 horses, and 5,401 goats and sheep were raised.

From the results reported above Luang Prabang Province is able to feed itself at the basic level. The cadres, combatants and multi-ethnic people of Luang Prabang Province are thoroughly steeped in the two main duties of the party and state, namely: To protect and build a socialist country.

8947

CSO: 4206

MARKET REACTS TO CURRENCY CHANGE

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Dec 79 p 2

[Text] In our capital city there are four big markets: Si Khai Market (Sikhottabong District), Nong Duang Market (Chanthabouli District), Thatluang Market (Saisettha District), and Souanmon Market (Sisattanak District).

This morning every market seemed to have a bustling, happy atmosphere. The people of Vientiane were getting accustomed to using the bank kip. The circulation of goods between the city and the country as well as buying and selling proceeded normally.

The historic change to the new money has created new convenience for all classes of people in earning a living. It is clear that the people of Vientiane were very happy with their standard of living. People in general were of the opinion that the best thing was the rate of exchange between the new and old kip which was still at the old level, while [prices] in the market were gradually decreasing.

This situation first appeared the day when the Council of Ministers issued the directive concerning plans and policy for administering the market, which will guide it to greater abundance. Most important there will be beef, pork, buffalo, duck, chicken, fish and various fresh vegetables available to meet everyone's demand at every market at all times.

According to what merchants said, the many kinds of merchandise available in the markets of Vientiane today exceeded the buyers' demand--for example a lady selling meat at the Sikhai market said that even though the meat was lower priced than it used to be, it appeared that they would not be short anything. So they hailed people to come buy because there was much meat in the market. At the same time in a separate Sikhai market there was buffalo meat from a cooperative for sale and the sales ladies there said that they were underselling the individual vendors, that is at 15 kip per kilogram for good meat. But at the end of the morning they had to lower the price more.

A merchant at the Nong Duang market named Mukdavan (a vegetable seller for 15 years) gave the following reason for this: ever since the recent currency change, the prices in the market have gotten cheaper every day. Because of this all the merchants have seen it their duty to protect the value of the kip and keep it stable.

This spirit of the merchants shows clearly that they do not intend to make undue profits, as the meat merchant in the Nong Duang market did not. She presently lives in Ban Hatsadi Village, (Tassaeng) Sisavat Canton (Meuang)(Chanthabuli District), and she told reporters that: "How can you keep prices high? There are many goods, but the new kip is hard to come by, therefore if you want money in your purse you have to sell cheap and make small profits."

The Thatlouang and Souanman markets are much like the other markets. The merchants sell their goods at a fair price--no one is greedy. No one takes advantage or cuts himself off. On the contrary everyone builds good faith and warmth in the free market.

They were happy to see that the official kip maintained its value and is easy to figure. Some people have stated the opinion that using the official kip was necessary for mobilizing to increase production, which will make everyone better off.

Now the people of Vientiane feel that the bank kip is the national currency and is really independent. It is continuously circulating in every area and activity of the nation and the people.

The success in using the bank kip is a victory which brings all people to firmly believe in the correct and just policies of the party and state as they perform the duty of building the new order and making it progress. This means that the cost of living and the standard of living of our cadres, soldiers, workers and people will become normalized.

In perspective it can be seen that the people of Vientiane are proceeding with business as usual. All the markets are filled with the sound of voices and laughter which is a sign of the happiness and relaxed nature of the people of Vientiane of all classes.

8419

CSO: 4206

CURRENCY CIRCULATION PROBLEMS PERSIST

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 29 Feb 80 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Use All Necessary Methods To Speed Circulation of Money"]

[Text] Banks are one of the most effective tools for carrying out our socialist construction, economic development, and cultural development tasks. As Lenin said, "Without a large bank socialism cannot be built...." However, when we look at the activities of our national bank weak areas are apparent. The performance of its role to pay on accounts is very weak as is its control of currency. State enterprises have too many individual treasuries, money collection efforts of the bank are very weak, and currency circulates too slowly. Investment funds for the most part are loaned to finance trade. Loans to farmers to finance expansion of production are still few and still difficult. Neither the bank nor the Finance Ministry use money to control the economic activities of state enterprises and economic organizations very well. There is no control or management. Economic enterprises and organizations do not have business or production plans and do not organize business or production activities. Yet funds are still disbursed for their products making the bank deposits of offices, mass organizations, enterprises, and economic organizations very large.

Thus in order to serve production and national construction the most urgent tasks are coordinated efforts of the bank and financial organs to pay debts, the seizure of funds of state organizations that have procrastinated, greater attention to firm control of currency, the widespread expansion of bank branches at district level, and the lending of funds to farmers to buy buffaloes for plowing their fields and agricultural implements, to improve irrigation, etc. It is our duty not to call for the mobilization of all sources of man, animal, and mental power that can be mobilized within and outside the country including aid funds provided by friendly countries.

The printing and distribution of the new money replacing the old is a monetary reform intended to smash the schemes of internal and external reactionaries who have used it to support forces which oppose the revolution as well as to respond to the demands and requirements involved in expanding the economy, expanding prosperity, and building socialism in our country.

One additional problem in achieving these things is that we must encourage people to deposit their savings under convenient forms and conditions for withdrawal and appropriate interest rates. We must use every means necessary to increase the speed of money circulated by widening legal rights to assign trust of money, increasing the number of accountants, expanding bank branches to the district level in plains areas, widening knowledge about paying bills without using cash, etc., in order to balance receipts and expenditures of cash.

The performance of this task by the bank in order to transform itself into a vital tool for building socialism in our country will be extremely difficult because we do not have much experience and lack the economical base to back our currency. Nevertheless, based on the spirit of the party Central Committee's resolution number 7, if we perform our duties successfully in 1980 our financial and monetary work will be solid and true and will indubitably meet the needs for protecting and building our nation.

8947

CSO: 4206

LOCALITIES PAY RICE TAXES, SELL SURPLUS RICE TO STATE

Nasaithong District Sales

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 5 Mar 80 pp 1, 2

[Text] During early 1980 the farmers in the villages and cantons in Nasaithong district, Vientiane Province happily and fervently brought rice surplus to the estimated consumption needs of their families and sold it to the state.

Based on incomplete figures the people in these localities brought over 37 tons of paddy rice to sell to the state by trading it for goods from the state store in their district. The selling of rice to the state by the people in those localities allows them to increase the incomes and improve the living conditions of each family. It also allows the state to amass funds to use for national development for a stronger more prosperous nation.

At the present time the parade of people selling rice to the state from localities all over Vientiane Province continues vigorously.

Thoulakhom District Taxes

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 6 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] In the 1979-80 growing season the people of two districts, namely Thoulakhom and Saythani, voluntarily reported their incomes from their production for the past year and calculated their agricultural tax obligations. Thoulakhom district paid agricultural taxes of 62-plus tons and Saythani district 201-plus tons.

In addition the people of Thoulakhom district also sold 22 tons, 205 kilograms of surplus rice to the state. At present the people of this district are continuing to sell rice to the state.

Paksane Taxes

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 6 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] By the end of January the people and agricultural cooperative members in the various cantons of Paksane district, Vientiane Province, had voluntarily reported their incomes from their production for the past year and had calculated their agricultural tax obligation to be over 239 tons.

They also sold 119,496 kilograms of surplus rice to the state in order to play a role in building the strength and prosperity of the nation.

At present a procession of people and agricultural cooperative members in this district are continuing to bring rice to sell to the state.

Vientiane Province Taxes

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 1 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] His excellency, Khambeng, a member of the Vientiane guidance committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation Department Committee of Vientiane City and province announced that the situation regarding collection of agricultural taxes from people in all the localities of Vientiane City and province for the 1979-80 season is that it is proceeding vigorously and in consonance with the policies of the party as well as the policies and the minds of the people. It shows that every one is honestly reporting his income from the harvest and calculating his agricultural tax fairly. The people comment that paying agricultural taxes displays one's spirit of patriotism and love of socialism and is a duty and honor for people of every social class.

Based on incomplete figures, from the time agricultural tax collections began until now people of various localities have paid taxes of over 4,000 tons and the procession of people to pay the tax continues ensuring the glorious accomplishment of this year's agricultural tax collection period. The people also feel encouraged to put diligent efforts into the care of the dry season rice crop.

Sikhottabong Taxes

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 4 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] In this 1979-80 season people throughout Sikhottabong district of Vientiane City have voluntarily reported the results of their harvest and have calculated agricultural taxes to be paid based on their incomes in the amount of nearly 49 tons.

They have also voluntarily sold 3,625 kilograms of surplus rice to the state in order to take part in the state's amassing of funds to be used in building national strength and prosperity.

The people of this district are currently continuing to stream in with rice to sell to the state.

VIENTIANE SOCIAL WELFARE SECTOR ASSISTS REFUGEE RETURNEES

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 26 Dec 79 p 1

[Text] From January to the end of December 1979 the comrades and cadres of the social welfare sector of Vientiane City and Province performed the duties assigned by higher echelons successfully.

During this period they provided a great many supplies to help the mountain tribespeople who came to make a new life on the plain, people who had returned from Thailand, those who had lost their harvest in natural disasters, those suffering from various illnesses especially leprosy, and those who were hurt by house fires.

These supplies for aid included more than 600 tons of white and sticky rice, more than 50 tons of seed, 102 tons of flour, 26,130 kilograms of salt, 2,000 kilograms of sugar, 7,429 cans of milk, meat and butter, 1,197 mosquito nets and blankets, 1,374 mats, more than 15,000 meters of various kinds of cloth, 545 shirts and dresses, 36 rolls of rubberized cloth, 582 dozen spools of thread, 1,161 dozen sewing needles, 1,580 sheets of tin, 932 pots, 3,093 bowls, 2,585 buckets, 513 knives, 644 large basins, 564 spoons, 3,768 hoes, axes, shovels and hatchets, 683 metal rakes, 318 iron bars, an 80 horsepower water pump together with excavating equipment, 160 kilograms of insecticide, 5 sprayers, 22,150 liters of various kinds of fuel oil, and 32 sets of carpenter's tools each set with 8 pieces. The total value of this was 80,309,160 liberation kip. The total weight was 1,053 tons 646 kilograms.

In addition the social welfare sector arranged to send those refugees who were willing back to their old villages. There were 299 people sent from Vientiane to other provinces in 10 trips. And there were 4,042 people moved within Vientiane Province in 640 trips. They bought 7 water buffalo to help the refugees with production in [Meuang] Vang Viang District. They brought in tractors to clear and plow 37 hectares of land for the refugees in [Meuang] Paksan District and [Meuang] Vang Viang District.

The workers of this sector also performed tasks for the good of the nation. They cleared trees from the Nam Souang Reservoir which will counter drought and flood. And they worked 2 hectares of dry season rice.

REFUGEE RETURN, CAMPS IN NONG KHAI DESCRIBED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Dec 79 pp 2,3

[Text] Mrs Manivong Luanglat nicknamed Nang Deang, aged 31, from Ban Sisangvon Village, [Tasseng] Nongbon Canton, [Meuang] Saisettha District, Vientiane City and Province decided to flee to Thailand with her four children to find the paradise to which her husband, Attalo Iamsisanit, had fled earlier. But when they tasted the flavor of this capitalist nation at the refugee center in Nong Khai, they abandoned hope and returned home in tears.

In the refugee center she recorded her daily life which was filled with woe and misery. The Lao, who were good people when they arrived in the camp, became bad. They ignored children and wife, frequented illegal brothels, became liars, stole, used alcohol and drugs, weeped and cursed. There were always the sounds of fights. And there was no hope for things to get better. All they did was eat and sleep waiting for the day when food for 10 days was to be distributed. For 10 days they gave an adult 5 ka of rice [1 ka = 9.3 kg] and a child 2 and 1/2 ka. Other food was generally mackerell. The amount of food depended on how much they wanted to give you; there were no regulations. What was most unpleasant about the center was not just the Thai who caused the Lao refugees to feel hurt and bitter, but there were also Lao refugees who were oppressive. They would exploit people unashamedly, not unlike when they say: "The big fish eats the little fish, the Soi fish eats the siv fish," (an expression from the old regime). Surplus goods were left at the center to give to the refugees: Fellow Lao in positions of responsibility were out to make money and achieve happiness at the expense of others in poverty. They brazenly took the rations of others and sold them unashamedly. One could not do anything because the society there was incomparably barbaric. It wasn't just a matter of food which demonstrated the injustice; worse yet was the pitiful plight of pretty young girls aged 15 and up who became the garbage of society. They were oppressed and deceived and treated as casually as merchandise. Fathers and mothers would sell them to the Thai at very low prices.

Six months had passed since Nang Daeng had come to the center at Nong Khai. She sat and thought about conditions in the center; it was like hell. She wondered what her fate would be if she went to a third country very far from Laos. What could she do for a living in a capitalist country except to be a low servant all her life. She was examined by third countries on two occasions. Her older sister was in Australia and her younger brother was in France; they told her of the conditions, and the good and bad she would encounter. She struggled with the two possibilities in her mind; should she lose herself in a distant place or return home?

On the night of 24/7/79 she lay down but could not sleep. She thought of the Thai saying: "The lazy ones who have no nation." Lao blood filled her heart. She decided to return to her country. If she were going to die she wanted to die in her own country. That day she got up very early. She secretly led her four children out of the center. They got in a taxi and headed for Nong Khai. She was lucky that day. She sneaked down to the dock and hid beside the boat's motor. The Thai policeman did not see her. The captain started the motor and left the dock at Nong Khai and headed for Tha Deua. She breathed again; it was as if she had died and been reborn. She reported herself at district headquarters in Hatsaifong and slept there one night. After she had answered all the questions the officials sent her to report to the district headquarters of Saisettha. After that she returned to her old home.

Now she is happy because the party and state did not punish her. All was forgiven, for those who were deceived and she is applying herself to building a new life which has been pointed out to her by the party and the state.

This story told by Mrs Manivong Luanglat describing her life in the center in Nong Khai until she returned to her country, lasted about 6 to 7 months.

8149

CSO: 4206

REEDUCATION CAMP INMATE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM DESCRIBED

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 3 Mar 80 p 2

[Text] Before going to Women's Island [Don Nang] His Excellency Buaphan took us to Don Tong which is an island referred to as the tailoring school.

I was disappointed to arrive at the island after working hours. Everywhere it was as quiet as a ghost town but everything was in excellent order.

The first building we approached was the new-thoughts building situated at the highest point on the island. Facing the building was a wide, clean, dirt field bordered for the most part by pohu bushes, small jackfruit trees, and ginger plants. But the doors of this building were shut tightly. Uncle Buaphan, the head of the reeducation center, told us, "In the future this building will be the tailoring school. But at the present time we are using it as a place to store machinery and implements for tailoring." From my observation the building is not less than 20 meters long and about 7 meters wide. The framework of the building is good and thick and the wall of the veranda is made of nicely painted boards. The second building was of similar appearance but a mewhat smaller. Inside there were about 50-odd new sewing machines standing in four long rows and four male tailors who were working. I was given to understard that these four men were both teachers and workers. But the 60-odd machines had not yet been used. The third building was similar to the others. Inside were 30-odd sewing machines standing in three long rows. The right side was partitioned into small rooms, probably used for accounting and cutting, where work was in progress. There were 44 workers (4 male; the rest female) including over 30 who had attained the required skill. A little to the left was a long-roomed structure and about three or four other small ones. Uncle Buaphan said they were for "policy control."

"What does that mean?" I asked impetuously and Uncle Bouphan replied:

On our island currently people are divided into three categories. In category one are those undergoing reeducation. The second is the test category. In the third category are progressives who have accepted jobs working for the state. In the third category currently are nearly one

hundred people. These people have already been released but they volunteer to continue working. They are assigned to five sections: The construction section, the sewing section, the hotel section, the sawmill section, and the housekeeping section. These people receive salaries and operate under the same policies as general state employees. Here I will speak about policy control. This control is for those who set up new families, if they are in love with a man and have a good work record. The organization will see to it that they can establish a family together and will arrange for a place for them to live. When they have children we implement the policy system precisely."

A friend of mine touched my side and squeezed lightly:

"Hey! When they arrive they are in its grasp. When children are born it is implemented! There is a standing policy on establishing families!" I jabbed him in the side with my elbow and we got into a boat and headed for Women's Island. Here there is no sadness; the "women" work in a pleasant, happy atmosphere. During the day the women weave rattan hats, sew hats, and clean house. When evening comes they bathe, play games, and tease one another. Then they go to eat dinner together. When darkness falls the women dance happily and admire the reflection of the moon shining on the water. The women hear the sounds of music and dancing as well as the chirping of birds and breathe only fresh air into their lungs. Cares and worries and sadness are eliminated. But some days bad omens from their past reappear and sometimes it makes them feel sad that they are slowly being killed. This thinking is a matter of self delusion or it may be caused by a woman's instinct for love and self-preservation. But a curtain deep in their past makes them build self-doubt like that. But who is to say that someone who falls down but knows how to get back up is not better than someone who intends to lie down but doesn't know how to get up.

"Yesterday I fell down. Today I got up and my elder sister says I am not a bad person any more." I thought of this saying and tried it out in a conversation with Vannason (not her real name) who was in tears before me. Vannason admitted that, "At first I felt more sorrow about my past than happiness about having another chance to associate with my elders. But after learning that society tends to forgive someone who understands himself, I think that having an opportunity to open my eyes is many times better than closing them and dreaming about being an angel."

Upon leaving Women's Island for Peace Island where we were to spend the night, I had a picture in my mind and I was determined to preserve the story of this day for myself and my friends for many years. It was "the picture of a Lao woman unwilling to surrender to be a slave of a dirty society."

Some of the songs and dances, such as the Women's Island song and other dances, that we observed on Peace Island were written by women undergoing reeducation.

It was not that the women were happy to come to these islands that produced these songs. It was that they were happy to have the opportunity to study the evils of the imperialists and, through the knowledge of those evils, to develop a hatred which they turned into strong revolutionary fervor to help themselves and the nation advance to future successes.

8947

CSO: 4206

PROGRESS ON CHINAIMO WATER WORKS NOTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 27 Feb 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Chinaimo water works construction project is 60 percent complete.

On 25 February the 190 construction workers and cadre on the Chinaimo water works project of the Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transport began a short-term competition phase to set work records in honor of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the party and in support of resolution number 7 issued by the party Central Committee by pouring a record 205 cubic meters of concrete as a foundation for a Mekong water pumping station. The station is to be 14.5 meters wide, 35 meters long, 18 meters below ground level and 4 meters below the Mekong water level. The station will be the first constructed in our country and is one of the more difficult of all our construction projects. This pouring of concrete will cover a width of 11.1 meters and a length of 14.5 meters at an average depth of 1.5 meters.

In performing this work they divided up into two large crews working alternate shifts. Each crew was composed of a cement mixing team, a cement pouring brigade, a cement water-spraying team, a machinery team, managers, etc. This work was to be done by the dangling chain mixing method until the cement was vibrated by the machinery team. To do this work they determined in concert to overcome all the obstacles and difficulties in the way and to work tirelessly and competitively with a high spirit of responsibility.

Up to now they have had 8 major pourings of concrete totalling 2,505 cubic meters and laid over 30 thousand meters of medium size pipe (80-450 millimeters) out of a total of 52 thousand meters. Sixty percent of the total construction project has been completed.

At the present time the workers are vigorously striving to complete construction in accordance with established goals.

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CSO: 4206

CONSTRUCTION OF NAM SOUANG RESERVOIR DESCRIBED

Vientiane SJANG PASASON in Lao 27 Feb 80 pp 2, 3

[Text] A new thing that is apparent to our people under the new regime is the construction of irrigation systems as a foundation for the expansion of agricultural effort in our country.

Under the former regime little if anything was said about irrigation systems. The former administrative authorities were unconcerned and never talked about it. But under the new regime our party and state have mobilized our multi-ethnic people to build irrigation systems and dig canals and ditches in order to allow our farmers to make a living and to expand agricultural work to two crop seasons which is the key to achieving abundance and raising the capital for construction of industries.

The Nam Souang reservoir is a fairly big project in the construction of the irrigation system in Vientiane Province. These days if anyone goes to look at this site his heart is filled with pride to see his fraternal workers in the construction brigades resolutely toiling in the sun and withstanding weariness, their spirits overflowing with determination to attack and overcome problems for the sake of our national prosperity.

Construction of the Nam Souang reservoir began in mid-November 1977 by 250 workers, none of whom had any experience in this kind of work, and not even a single engineer. In the initial phase they encountered problems which delayed construction by four months plus in which they dug sand and earth out of the stream bed to a depth of 12 meters and searched for dense clay to bring and dump in and tramp down to even greater density to guarantee water quality. While doing this work they were able to persevere and erect the framework of the dam little by little and made impressive, pride-worthy progress.

In the construction of the Nam Souang reservoir 7 bulldozers, 2 shovels, 3 graders, 4 rollers, 14 earth haulers, 1 water truck, and 2 plows have been used. At dawn the workers gather at the construction brigade's coffee shop to drink coffee and engage in lively conversation. Promptly at 7 o'clock which is the starting time the roar of the machines and the sounds of our brethren working on the sluice gates happily affected everyone's work.

The loud sounds of the rollers, graders, shovels, and earth haulers reverberate and mix together non-stop while they compete with each other happily as they race against time. The earth haulers dump a load and the graders and rollers carry out their functions to tamp it smooth and firm in order to guarantee it and there is further testing of the density. Each day the earth haulers make 300-350 round trips. One truck holds 12 cubic meters of earth. The filling of the dam with earth is being expedited. Some days the workers work day and night. The height of the densely packed dam has now reached 29 meters out of a projected 32 meters and its length is 1,000 meters. Along with the work on the dam the construction of sluice gates and the digging of canals continue non-stop also.

Vanthong and Bunnong of the committee in charge of the Nam Souang reservoir construction brigade told us that anything to be done can be done well without doubt if we set our minds to overcoming problems and really doing it. A beautiful sight filled with hope assails our senses. Initially the Nam Souang reservoir will be able to hold 72 million cubic meters of water and will be 8 kilometers long and 4 kilometers wide. The initial phase of construction has exceeded its estimated completion date but in the very near future this reservoir will be providing water to 1,000-1,500 hectares of our multi-ethnic people's farmlands in the plains of Nasaithong and Phon Hong districts. And this is only the initial phase. The primary objective of phases two and three is to provide sufficient water to 120,000 hectares in the Vientiane plain.

The Nam Souang reservoir will not only be a source of desired water but also a place for testing concepts, viewpoints, and principles as well as real life technical school. As a result of their work performance and their glorious accomplishments our party and state have commended and presented medals to outstanding individuals such as Comrade Vanthong, who received the labor medal, second class, Comrade Bunnong, who received the bravery medal, and Comrades Sunthon, Phuthon, Bunluan, Saveng, and Thongsai, who received the labor medal, third class. In addition 29 comrades received certificates of commendation from Central, 68 comrades received certificates of commendation from Army headquarters, and 52 comrades received certificates of commendation from the Army Political Department.

8947

CSO: 4206

BRIEFS

VIENTIANE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT--During 1979 the multi-ethnic people of all localities within Vientiane City and province organized volunteer forces to clear new paddy fields and to restore ones that had been abandoned for several years because the old regime of the U.S. imperialists had damaged them. During that period they were able to clear and restore over 2,100 hectares including 1,200 hectares that were newly cleared. Most effective were the farmers in Hatsaifong, Phon Hong, and Vang Vieng districts who were able to clear and restore nearly 1,000 hectares because a majority of their farmers have organized new patterns of living and have turned to agricultural cooperatives and large-scale, socialist production. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 21 Feb 80 p 1] 8947

UDOMSAI COOPERATIVES ESTABLISHED--Since the beginning of 1980 the farmers of Oudomsai district, Luang Prabang Province, have turned from private, fragmented working to collective, socialist production by establishing three new agricultural cooperatives at Ban Thabu (a Thai Dam village), Ban Nakok (a Thai Dam village), and Ban Phonsai, Nam Bak Canton. These cooperatives had a total of 115 families, 404 members, 121 hectares of land, 140 draft animals, over 100 sets of plows and harrows, and 1,310 kip in cash. Following their establishment votes were cast to elect management and inspection committees to control the work and set production plans for each period. During the same period the agricultural cooperative at Ban Fa, Nam Bak Canton, in the same district and province completed distribution of its production to its members. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 22 Feb 80 p A-7] 8947

CHAMPASSAK BANK DEPOSITS--From 1 January to the present farmers in six cantons of Sanasombun district, Champassak Province deposited over 99,700 kip of their savings from the sale of various farm products in the state. The people of Khili Canton alone deposited over 30,000 kip. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 25 Feb 80 p A-4] 8947

SAVANNAKHET ICE CREAM FACTORY--Recently the workers of the Savannakhet ice cream factory completed construction of a new factory and installation of machinery. This factory received construction aid and technical advice from experts from the Binh-Chi-Thian Tri Province of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. At present the factory has begun test production. In only a short period they have served the people by producing 31,960 blocks of ice cream, or an average of over 10,000 blocks per day. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 27 Feb 80 p A-4] 8947

FISHING COOPERATIVE--In the past year, the fishermen's cooperative, area two, [Meuang] Keo-Oudom District, Vientiane Province, was industrious and increased production greatly. They caught 147,458 kilograms of fish. These fishermen farmed as well and harvested 3,600 kilograms of rice. They planted 4,700 banana trees and raised vegetables on 150 plots. They also raised a number of ducks, chickens and pigs. In addition to fishing and increasing production, they built 10 new boats; 2 were large, and 1 was medium-sized. They built seven schools and guesthouses. Each room measured 8 x 6 meters. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 26 Dec 79 p 1] 8149

CSO: 4206

ORGANIZED ACTION TO CONTROL PRICES URGED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 80 p 6

[Editorial: "Price Discipline"]

[Text]

The Federal Prices and Supply Board met in Islamabad a few days back to review the market movements and found the situation generally satisfactory. The Provincial Board had held a similar meeting earlier to survey the supply and price position of 22 essential items. Of these seven were found to have registered a decline in prices, while eight others had remained stationary as compared to the rates in March last year. The remaining eight articles had, however, shown an upward trend. Special measures adopted since last October have exercised an overall beneficial effect on the price situation, but there have also been signs of regression from time to time, showing that the vigilance mounted cannot be relaxed till such time as traders and shopkeepers learned to behave. The fact is that our trading classes have had a free hand for such long years that they will take time

getting used to the new price discipline enforced by the Government. There has been no tradition here of printing prices on articles of daily use; profit margins have always been arbitrarily fixed; price revision has been the exclusive pleasure of the manufacturers and retailers; and the middleman has continued to create havoc unafraid of being called to account. All this explains why display of price lists as required by the law has not yet become a norm and many articles still don't carry the price tag. Prices too continue to fluctuate without any apparent cause.

A situation like this demands that there is no let up in the drive against overcharging and hoarding and market vigilance continues unabated. At the same time no leniency should be shown to persons found violating the price law so as to put a check to this tendency. A major factor in price escalation is the disruptive

role played by the middle man who without making any positive contribution to the production process makes the biggest cut of all and, in the process, doubles and trebles the price. Elimination of this element would undoubtedly go a long way towards ensuring price stability, but unfortunately no organised action has so far been taken in this direction. In Islamabad the weekly Friday bazar, where consumers and producers directly deal with each other, has proved a roaring success and it can well be experimented with in other towns and cities of the country too. Some time back the authorities in Lahore had taken steps

to set up special markets in various parts of the city where the producer was to sell to the consumer directly. This was a good beginning towards getting rid of the parasitic commission agents but unfortunately the effort was not pursued to the end. Another need is for the authorities to actively encourage formation of consumer resistance committees to combat price manipulation at the local level. By organising themselves to stand up to the unholy alliance of profiteers, hoarders and blackmarketeers, the citizens will not only help themselves but also help the Government to administer the price situation more effectively.

PRODUCTIVE USE OF HOME REMITTANCES URGED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 80 p 4

[Editorial: "Home Remittances"]

[Text]

The rising trend in the inflow of home remittances demonstrates the success of the measures that the Government has taken to attract surplus earnings of Pakistani nationals working abroad for investment in the country's economic development. The foreign exchange received in fiscal 1978-79 through banking channels is reported to be of the order of Rs. 14 billion which compares well with the proceeds of about Rs. 16 billion from merchandise exports. However, if remittances in the form of a variety of goods, ranging from automobiles and heavy vehicles to electric gadgets and appliances, are also taken into account then it can be safely assumed that the savings of overseas Pakistanis far exceed the earning from export trade. The projection for 1979-80 on the basis

of the present rate of receipts is being put at Rs. 20 billion. Hitherto a large part of these remittances has been feeding either the currency black market or flowing into real estate and construction work where it has yielded nothing but inflationary pressure.

It was to arrest this corrosive trend that the Government decided to launch serious efforts to channel home remittances into productive investment. The establishment of the Rs. 600 million State Enterprise Mutual Fund is an important step in that direction. The enthusiasm with which these certificates have been received by Pakistani nationals abroad shows how eager they have been for investing their surplus money in safe and gainful projects. What is needed is to provide correct and continued guidance to pro-

pective investors. The present practice of publishing a periodic industrial investment schedule is not enough for the purpose. This schedule is at best a manual for Government or financial institutions. It would be a great service to new-comers in trade and industry if pre-feasibility investigations are commissioned and research reports made available to them so that they could select the most promising and profitable avenues for investing their hard earned money. It will also be a good idea for various financial institutions like NIT and ICP to join hands to set up a network of savings centres in the Middle East and other places where Pakistanis are concentrated in large numbers to provide ready information to interested parties on investment opportunities back home and to collect funds from them.

PUNJAB RICE CULTIVATION INCREASED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 80 p 3

[text]

The Punjab Government has prepared an ambitious programme for cultivating rice crop over 29.25 lakh acres during the coming Kharif season and to boost the production of top quality rice which is the major foreign exchange earning commodity for the country.

The decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting which was held in Lahore on Sunday under the chairmanship of Dr Abdul Ghafoor Bhatti, Punjab Governor's Adviser for Agriculture, says a handout.

Dr. Bhatti stated that Gujranwala would be made a model district for undertaking intensified rice cultivation over 6.25 lakh acres. The district had already exceeded all other districts in case of improvement of water courses

in the province. Special efforts would be made to bring the hundred per cent rice growers in Gujranwala within the fold of rural co-operatives to help them benefit from the provision of fertiliser and pesticides under interest-free loaning scheme.

The Adviser said that plantation of rice crop would be started on a campaign basis after wheat was harvested all over the province. The Irrigation Department would ensure sufficient quantity of canal water during the sowing season, he added. Similarly, all defective tube-wells would be repaired and break down of electric supply would be minimised. Adequate stocks of granular pesticides would be arranged to fight against any expected attack from the harmful insects.—APP.

PLAN TO REORGANIZE MILK, MEAT PRODUCTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 80 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, April 4: The government has taken steps to reorganise the production and marketing of meat and milk on modern lines, it was learnt.

According to official sources, an integrated approach towards production and marketing is being followed to link production by small owners with modern facilities for transportation and processing of output.

The programme also includes the development of dairy breeds and the shift from cattle to buffalo to encourage milk production.

The European Economic Community (EEC) will provide to Pakistan about 8.7 million dollars for the first foreign-aided livestock project in Baluchistan.

The Asian Development Bank

has already provided 7.5 million dollars loan for the project to increase livestock production, specially milk and meat in Baluchistan.

The provincial governments are also learnt to have been taking concerted steps to increase livestock production.

In Sind alone several lakh acres of land has been surveyed and relevant procedure was being processed for poultry, duck and cattle farmings.

An area of about 50,000 acres has been allocated near Jhumpr for duck farming after successful execution of poultry farming. Two estates of poultry farming near Karachi have already been reached to full capacity and the government have now decided to establish a poultry estate near Hyderabad.

APP

CSO: 4220

DISPUTE OVER WHO OWNS PL-480 WHEAT FUNDS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 80 p 1

[Article by Anwar Iqbal]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 4: Who owns the millions earned by selling the PL 480 wheat? This question has recently been debated in Islamabad.

It is said the Ministry of Finance claims that PL 480 wheat was "aid" and not "loan" therefore, the sale proceeds belong to the Government of Pakistan. And it was the Pakistan Government which had

the right to decide how and where should this money be spent.

The Americans holding the funds, under the agreement, were bound to seek Pakistan Government's approval before making allocations. But now they are refusing to accept government's claim over these millions of rupees, deposited in American banks.

While the government argues that the Americans had no control over the allocation of these

funds.

This, it is said, was one of the reasons which led to the decision to stop financing the agricultural projects from June 1981 out of these funds.

It would affect 96 agricultural research projects.

The shortfall thus created by the stoppage of PL 480 funds will be met with an aid programme to be financed by the World Bank which has already sanctioned Rs.500 million for the purpose.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

WHEAT PRICE REFIXED--The Government of Sind has re-fixed the purchase price of indigenous wheat including Mexican varieties from the Rabi Crop 1979-80. The new price is Rs. 46.65 per 37.324 kilograms of wheat tendered at the procurement centres on the basis of prescribed specifications. The price of 40 kilograms of wheat will be Rs. 50 while the price for 100 kilograms will be Rs. 125. The new prices will come into effect at once and difference of Rs. 1.65 per 37.324 kilograms will be paid to the persons who have already tendered their wheat stocks of Government during the current wheat procurement season. However, the issue price of wheat to Roller Flour Mills; ex-mill rate of ration atta and the sale price of ration atta to consumers will remain the same as at present. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 16 Apr 80 p 5]

MAJOR CROP TARGETS--Karachi, April 5--The Federal Government has set new targets for the production of major crops of cotton, rice and sugarcane during the Kharif season, PPI learnt here today. These targets are to be announced in a couple of days. The Sind Government has already approached the Agriculture Ministry to make public the procurement price of cotton because its sowing has already started in the province. Cotton is sown in Sind earlier than other provinces. According to reliable sources, the production targets of the above-mentioned crops are said to be "much higher" than those achieved during the last Kharif season. The proposed targets in Sind are: 14.18 lakh bales of cotton, 15 lakh tons of rice and 47.50 lakh tons of sugarcane. According to Government officials, the sowing of Kharif season is in full swing in lower Sind. The sowing in the upper Sind will start later this month.--PPI [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 80 p 9]

TWO PROMISING WHEAT VARIETIES--Hyderabad, April 3--A new rust-free and rich variety of wheat has been evolved by the Tandojam Agriculture Research Centre. Test cultivation of the new variety--'ZA-77'--has yielded very encouraging results. According to experts, it is as good as the imported Indian ('Somilkika') and Mexican ('Max-52') varieties, even from the per-acre-yield point of view. A similar variety ('Johar') evolved by the Atomic Energy Agriculture Research Institute is already under extensive experimental cultivation. Experts believe that these two varieties can replace the Indian and Mexican ones, and that their mass cultivation will bring the goal of self-sufficiency in wheat very much within reach. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 80 p 9]

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN--Quetta, April 4: The number of Afghan refugees in Baluchistan has risen to about 113,000. The registered refugees are living in 30 camps set up in different districts of the province. According to the provincial Refugee Commissioner, Khalid Ahmed, sufficient relief goods have been provided and satisfactory arrangements made by the government for making temporary stay of the refugees in the province comfortable. He said the flow of relief goods continued from foreign and Pakistani organisations. He said the UN High Commissioner for refugees had also set up a coordinating office here to streamline essential supplies to the refugees. He appealed to the general public to donate to the President's relief fund for Afghan refugees.--PPI [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 80 p 8]

CSO: 4220

FREEDOM PARTY REELECTS BANDARANAIKE AS PRESIDENT

BK05000' Hong Kong AFP in English 1703 GMT 4 Apr 80 BK

[Excerpts] Colombo, 4 Apr (AFP)--Former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike today retained her position as the undisputed leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) which she has been heading for the past twenty years.

The all island working committee of the party at its first meeting today under a new constitution unanimously re-elected her as its president.

The working committee, attended by more than 400 delegates elected party veteran and former Minister Maitripala Senanayake, 64, as deputy leader without a contest. Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, also a former minister, was re-elected unanimously as general secretary.

The post of treasurer was annexed by Colombo municipal councillor Sumathipala Jayewardene defeating Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, a former senior minister.

The working committee also elected five vice-presidents, five assistant secretaries, a 17-member Politbureau and a 147-member Central Executive Committee.

Mrs Bandaranaike's 31-year-old old, Anura, who is a member of parliament, is one of the members of the Politbureau following his election earlier this week as the leader of the party's youth wing.

Meanwhile Mrs Bandaranaike's film star son-in-law Vijaya Kumaranatunga was defeated in his bid to enter the Politbureau.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE--The visiting French minister of the economy has said that there is complete harmony in the friendly relations between France and Sri Lanka. He was talking to newsmen in Colombo on 10 April. The visiting French minister had talks with the prime minister, foreign minister and the minister of finance and planning. He also signed four agreements covering financial and food aid, investment promotion and protection and cooperation between the two countries in the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. [BK140619 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Apr 80 BK]

OPEC LOAN--OPEC has granted an interest-free loan of 100 million rupees as partial financing for a rural electrification scheme. An agreement to this effect was signed in Colombo by Minister of Finance Ronny de Mel and the director general of the OPEC fund. The loan will be repaid in 20 years with a grace period of 5 years. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 80 BK]

CSO: 4220

PREM CABINET BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES REPORTED

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 13 Mar 80 pp 6, 7

[Article: "Biographies and Past Positions of the New Cabinet Members; Five Parties All In the Same Boat With 'Prem'"]

[Text] General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, is 59 years old. He was born on 26 August 1920 in Songkhla Province. He graduated from Suankulap high school. He graduated from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in 1941, the same year as General San Chitpatima, General Prachup Suntarangkun, General Saiyut Koetphon, Lieutenant General Amnat Damrikat and Air Force General Phanieng Kantarat. He attended the United States Army Cavalry School in 1953 and the Army College in 1960 and was in the eight class to graduate from the National Defense College in 1966.

As for positions he has held, he was a lieutenant in the armored branch in 1941 and commander of the 2nd Company, 1st Armored cavalry Battalion, in 1946. He was commander of the 3rd Company, 4th Armored Cavalry Battalion, in 1950 and commander of the 5th Battalion, 2nd Armored Cavalry Division, in 1954. He was an instructor at the Cavalry Center in 1968. He was deputy commander and then commander of the 2nd Army in Region 2 in 1974. In 1977 he served as deputy commander in chief of the army and was promoted to commander in chief of the army in 1978. As for his political career, he served as deputy minister of interior in the first Kriengsak government and minister of defense in the second and third Kriengsak governments. He is unmarried.

General Serm Na Nakhon, deputy prime minister for security affairs, is 59 years old. He was born on 2 March 1920 in Bangkok Province. He graduated from Suankulap high school. He graduated from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in 1940 (army technology) in the same class as General Yot Thephatsadin Na Ayuthaya, Admiral Amorn Sirikaya and General

Chalat Hiransiri. He attended the artillery school, the Army General Staff College in 1958, the Kambaoly General Staff School in England in 1958 and the Army College in 1959. He was in the fourth class to graduate from the National Defense College in 1962. He [words illegible] Thai soldiers, 4th Group, in Vietnam.

As for past positions held, he served as an artillery lieutenant in 1940. He served as Chief of Operations of the 1st Army, the head of the Quartermaster General's Department, the head of the army Directorate of Logistics, General Staff, the deputy commander in chief of the army and the commander in chief of the army in 1976. He was promoted to Supreme Commander in 1978. He served as deputy prime minister for security affairs in the second and third Kriengsak governments. He is married to Lady Saeng Duan. He has two daughters, Phacharaporn and Arausa.

Major General Praman Adireksan, the deputy prime minister for agricultural affairs, was born on 11 December 1913 in Saraburi Province. He graduated from Thepsirin high school. He then entered the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, graduating in 1934, the same year as General Krit Siwala, and then served as an officer in the artillery. He received his B.A. degree in transportation from American University in the United States. He returned and took up military duties in the Military Transportation Department. In 1946 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. When he was promoted to "colonel" in 1951, he became a candidate for the House of People's Representatives and gained the largest number of votes in Saraburi Province. He has served as deputy minister of transportation and minister of industry. In 1957, he resigned his position in the wake of the coup by Field Marshal Sirit Thanarat. Following that, he engaged in private business activities until 1975 when he served as minister of defense. He became deputy prime minister in 1976. He is married to Charoen Adireksan. They have three boys. He received the Mahapramaphorn Changphuak and Thutiyachulachomklaowiset medals for his achievements in World War II.

General Thanat Khoman, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, is 66 years old. He was born on 9 February 1914. He took his doctor of law degree from Paris University. He served as a member of the National Parliament. He became minister of foreign affairs in 1959. At present, he is the leader of the Democrat Party and a representative from Bangkok.

Mr Bunchu Rotchanasethien, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, was born on 20 January 1922 in Chonburi Province. He is now 58 years old. He was once a teacher at a Chinese school. He then studied at Thammasat University, earning a higher certificate. He was the first person to establish an accounting office. Later, Mr Chin Sophonphanit, the chairman of the board of Bangkok Bank Ltd. asked him to come work for the bank. While working for Bangkok Bank, Mr Bunchu showed his ability to build the bank and it is now the largest bank in Thailand. His last position was as president of Bangkok Bank. In 1975 he became a member of the Khukrit Pramot government and served as minister of finance. While serving as minister of finance, he initiated the policy of subsidies [for rural villages] and a program of agricultural credit which is still in use today.

Admiral Kawi Singha, deputy minister of defense, is 59 years old. He was born on 10 May 1920. He is an alumnus of Suankulap high school. He graduated from the Naval Academy and attended the Naval Operations Academy, the College of Naval Operations and the National Defense College. He has served in the navy as the chief of naval combat operations and deputy commander in chief and commander in chief of naval combat forces. He was then transferred to Supreme Military Headquarters where he served as deputy chief of staff, aide to the supreme commander and deputy supreme commander. He was then transferred back to the navy where he is now commander in chief of the navy. He was involved in the national administrative reform of 6 October 1976 and the coup on 20 October 1977. He has served as deputy secretary of the Prime Minister's Council, deputy secretary of the Revolutionary Council and secretary of the National Policy Council. He is married to Kamonnari Singha. They have five daughters.

Air Force General Phanieng Kantarat, deputy minister of defense, was born on 1 April 1921 in Samutprakan Province. He is an alumnus of Thepsirin high school. He graduated from the Chulachom Royal Military Academy. He attended the Air Force Academy, the Air Force Flight Instructors' School in England, flight commander school in the United States, the air operations staff school and the Army College and was a member of the seventh class at the National Defense College. He has served in the Air Force as commander of Flight 3, Squadron 1, commander of Squadron 1, deputy chief of air combat headquarters, deputy chief of staff of the Air Force, chief of air combat headquarters, aide to the chief of air operations, chief of air operations and commander in chief

of the Air Force. He was involved in the national administrative reform of 6 October 1976 and the coup of 20 October 1977. He was a member of the Prime Minister's Council and then the National Policy Council. He is married to Suranut Kantarat.

Major General Chatchai Chunhawan, minister of industry, was born on 5 April 1922 in Phalapphachai commune, Bangkok. He is 58 years old. He graduated from Thepsirin high school. He then entered Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, graduating in 1940. He then took a position as an officer in the cavalry. He went to study military tactics at a tank school run by the U.S. Army. On his return, he served as commander of the 1st Cavalry Battalion of the Royal Guards. Following that, he served as army aide-de-camp in Washington. On his return, he became commander of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 1949. He initiated a reform of the Thai army tank school during this period. Later, the Ministry of Defense ordered that he become an officer in the reserves and transferred him to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1958 to 1960 he served as ambassador to Argentina. In 1963 he was ambassador to Austria and Turkey. In 1968 he served as ambassador to Switzerland, Yugoslavia and the Vatican and permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva. In 1972 he returned and became director general of the Political Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the end of that year, he was promoted to deputy minister of foreign affairs. In 1975 he served as minister of foreign affairs and in 1976 he became minister of industry. He was a member of the House of People's Representatives from Nakon Nhasasima for two consecutive terms in 1975 and 1976. At present, he is the head of the Thai-China Friendship Association, head of the Alumni Association for graduates of European schools and chairman of the board of the Erawan Trust Company. He has received the Mahaphrmaphorn Changphuak, Mahawichiramongkut Thutiyachulachomklaowiset medals and a Medal of Bravery for his achievements in World War II and the Korean War.

Mr. Koson Krailuk, deputy minister of industry, is a representative from Phisanulok and a member of the Social Action Party. He is 54 years old. He was born on 1 April 1926. He graduated from Saint Gabriel high school and then went on to take a degree in engineering from Chulalongkorn University. He is the son of Mr. Chongkon Krailuk, a well-known former politician who was accused of being a rebel in 1932. He entered the House of People's Representatives in 1969 and became the leader of the Independance Party. He was elected for three consecutive terms. He failed in his bid for election

in 1975 but was reelected again in 1976. Mr Koson was, together with Khukrit Pramot, one of the founders of the Social Action Party and has continuously been elected to serve on the Central Committee of the Social Action Party.

Mr Kraison Tantiphong, deputy minister of industry, was born on 12 March 1930. He finished Lower secondary school in Chiang Mai Province. He has been elected to the House of People's Representatives six times and has served as deputy minister of industry three times in the past.

Mr Prathuang Kiratibut, minister of interior, was born on 20 April 1921. He received his bachelor's degree from Thammasat University in 1946 and received a civil service scholarship to study law in the United States. He received his M.A. degree in comparative law. He received a position in the Department of Public Prosecution, working as a clerk in the Legal Action Division. He has served as a public prosecutor trainee in the Legal Action Division, as an assistant public prosecutor in Nakhon Sawan Province, as a special prosecutor for the Counsellors' [Committee], as deputy director general of the Department of Public Prosecution and as director general of the Department of Public Prosecution. He was, until recently, deputy leader of the National Parliament. He is married to Wanida. They have one son and two daughters.

Mr Banyat Banthaththan, deputy minister of interior, is 38 years old. He was born on 15 May 1942. He is a lawyer by profession. He served as a representative in 1975 and 1976. He was secretary to the minister of interior when Seni Pramot was prime minister and minister of interior in 1976. At present, he is speaker of the Democrat Party.

Dr Kasem Sirisamphan, deputy minister of interior, was born on 17 July 1932. He attended Wachirawut and Bangkok Christian high schools. He attended Thammasat University, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism, and took his doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin. He became a professor at Thammasat University, serving as head of the journalism department and as vice chancellor. He became involved in politics in 1970. He was a member of the Assembly and a member of parliament. He served as deputy secretary to the prime minister for political affairs in 1975. He was a member of the Senate in 1976. At present, he is secretary of the Social Action Party and a representative from Bangkok.

Dr Annuai Wirawan, minister of finance, was born on 22 May 1932. He attended Assumption, Watinasin and Mahawachirawut high schools. He entered Chulalongkorn University and received his bachelor's degree in commerce and accounting. Following that, he took his doctorate in business administration from the University of Michigan, receiving honors in economics. On returning to Thailand, he took a position in the Ministry of Finance in 1958, serving as head of the accounting and finance division in the Central Accounting Department. He was promoted to director general of the Customs Department and permanent undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance. During the time of the Thanin government, he faced a political crisis and was forced to resign his positions. He went abroad and lived there until he was appointed to his [present] position.

Mr Boran Tansathien, the deputy minister of finance, is 44 years old. He was born on 10 May 1936. He received a diploma in industrial arts and a certificate in accounting from Australia. Before entering politics, he was engaged in private business. He served as a Takuaba city councilman from 1967 to 1974 and as a member of the Pangnga provincial council in 1968. He served as a representative in 1975 and 1976. At present, he is a representative from Pangnga Province under the Social Action Party.

Admiral Amorn Sirikaya, minister of communications, was born on 5 June 1918 in Langsuan district, Chumphon Province. He attended the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, the Naval Operations Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. He was in the elite class at the National Defense College. He has served in the navy all his life. He has served as naval attache in the Philippines, flotilla commander, aide-de-camp to the chief of naval operations, deputy chief of naval operations, chief of naval operations and commander in chief of naval forces. He was involved in the 6 October 1976 national administrative reform and the coup of 20 October 1977. He was a member of the National Policy Council. In August 1978, he served, together with General Yot Thephatsadin Na Ayuthaya, as deputy minister of defense in the Reform Cabinet of General Ariyarat Chamanon. He is married to Phani Sirikasa. They have two sons and one daughter.

Mr Yot Intarakomansut, deputy minister of communications, was born on 10 June 1916. He received a primary school teaching certificate with a major in agriculture. He attended seminars concerning economics, cooperatives and accounting given by the Department of Cooperatives. Before his election, he served

as director of the National Lottery. Also, he was a member of the provincial council and a member of the House of People's Representatives in 1952, 1957, 1969 and 1976. He served as secretary to the minister of interior and the minister of cooperatives in 1956 and was deputy minister of cooperatives in 1957.

General Phon Roengprasertwit, deputy minister of communications, was born on 1 November 1930. He attended the Reserve Officers' School, the Army General Staff College and the Army Staff Officers' College. Before his election, he served as an officer with the Army General Staff. He has served as undersecretary to the minister of defense and the minister of education and secretary to the minister of industry. He lives at 51/9 K.L.M. Lane, Chaengwattana Road, Bangkok, Bangkok. At present, he has been appointed to be deputy minister of communications.

Wing Commander Thinkornphan Krawi, deputy minister of communications, was born on 10 March 1918. He graduated from Assumption high school in Bangkok. He studied engineering at Chulalongkorn University and received a degree in industrial business administration from Italy. In 1954 he held the position of secretary to the deputy minister of interior. In 1976 and 1977, he served as minister of finance, and he was a member of the National Assembly in 1977. At present, he is chairman of the board of Ayinomoto Ltd.

Tamchai Khamphato, minister of commerce, was born on 12 November 1936. He is now 43 years old. He finished lower secondary school from Bophitphimuk high school and upper secondary school from Triemudom high school. He continued his studies at Tokyo University on a government scholarship, earning a B.S.C.N.S.C. On his return he began working for the National Power Authority as head of the service cost rate section of the Control Division. He then became head of the unit that was building high power lines for the Phung River program in Sakonnakhon Province. When this was completed, he resigned from government service and took a position as general manager of the Thai Hasahi Glass Company. He also served as a member of the board of directors of the Thai Poly-Plastic Industrial Company Ltd., the Thai Plastics and Chemical Company and the newspaper THE NATION. He served as a counsellor to the prime minister when Khukrit Pramot was prime minister. He was secretary of the Export Control Board, a member of the Thai Industrial Council, a member of the Executive Committee of the Thai Banking Association and a

member of the board of the Thai stock market. He is married to Dr Arasa. They have one son who is 10 years old.

Mr Phorot Chaiphorn, deputy minister of commerce, was born on 1 October 1933. He graduated from Wachirawut high school, and in 1957 he went to the United States to study finance and accounting. Upon his return to Thailand, he began working in the Ministry of Finance. At present, he is serving as president of the Fishing Board of Thailand. He is a member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Thai Industrial Council and is the president of the Thai Marine Products Merchants' Association.

Air Force General Sitthi Sawetsila, minister of foreign affairs, was born on 7 January 1919. He is an alumnus of Guankulap high school. He entered Chulalongkorn University to study engineering. During his second year, he received an Air Force scholarship to study engineering at M.I.T. in the United States, where he received his bachelor's degree. He participated in the activities of the Free Thai group until the end of the war. He then continued his studies at M.I.T., where he received his M.A. degree in engineering. He was a member of the sixth class at the National Defense College. He worked for the Air Force from the time he was a second lieutenant until he was a lieutenant general. He served as a counsellor to the Air Force and worked as an advisor to the civil service. He served as deputy head of the Department of Central Intelligence, assistant to the secretary of the National Security Council and deputy secretary of the National Security Council. He left the Air Force to become secretary of the National Security Council in 1975. He was a member of the National Administrative Reform Group and a member of the Assembly. He is married to Thida Sawetsila. They have four daughters.

Mr Arun Phanuphong, deputy minister of foreign affairs, was born on 15 March 1925 in Chumphon Province. His wife's name is Suphim. They have three daughters, Araphin, Arunphan and Chariphorn. Education: He finished lower secondary school from Mahawachirawut high school in 1940. He finished upper secondary school from Triemudom high school and entered Thammasat University in 1943. He received his diploma from Thammasat University in 1946 and his higher certificate from Paris University in France in 1952. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Paris University in 1954. He was a member of the 21st class to graduate from the National Defense College in 1979.

Work Experience: He was assigned to the foreign affairs section in 1947 and then worked in the diplomatic corp in Europe, America and Asia. He served as permanent undersecretary for foreign affairs in 1978/1979. He has served as deputy minister of foreign affairs since 1979.

Mr Banhan Silapaacha, minister of agriculture and cooperatives, is 48 years old. He was born on 20 August 1932. He is married to Chaemsai Silapaacha. He is a native of Suphanburi Province. He was a private businessman for 30 years. He has always done things for charity and social welfare. He first became involved in politics in 1973. He was chosen to be a member of the National Assembly in 1974 during the time when Sanya Thammasak was prime minister. He served as mayor of Suphanburi city in 1976. In his election as representative from Suphanburi Province, he won more votes than anyone else in the country. He served as deputy minister of industry during the government of Khukrit Pramot. Mr Banhan Silapaacha was one of the founders of the Chart Thai Party. He was last elected to the Assembly in 1978. At present, he is a member of the board of the Children's and Youth Home and is president of the Association for Natives of Suphanburi.

Mr Anat Aphaphirom, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, is 42 years old. He received his bachelor's degree in engineering from Chulalongkorn University. He received an A.I.T. scholarship to study in the United States, where he received his Ph.D. At present, he is vice chancellor at the Asian Technical College at Rangsit. His mother is Mrs Prathumphorn and his father is Mr Arun. He has five brothers and one sister. Mr Anat is a scholar who has a good knowledge of irrigation. He served as deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives during the third Kriengsak government. General Kriengsak Chamanan trusted him and gave him the responsibility of carrying out projects in Chiang Mai Province in accord with the wishes of the king.

Police Colonel Krit Sangkhasap, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, is a representative from Loei Province and a member of the Chart Thai Party. He was born on 21 February 1929. He graduated from the Police Officers' Academy. He was a merchant before his election. He has served as a member of the House of People's Representatives. He was deputy secretary to the minister of agriculture and cooperatives in 1976 and a member of the National Administrative Reform Council in 1976. He was a member of the National Assembly in 1977. He lives at 9/1 Phiphattanamongkhon Road, Kutpong commune, Muang district, Loei Province.

Squadron Leader Punmi Punsari, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, was born on 3 May 1928. He is 52 years old. He is a native of Chanthaburi Province. He is the son of Lord [luang] Rachamaidri and Mrs Form. He attended Wachirawut high school and earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from Chulalongkorn University. He received his master's degree in engineering from the University of Georgia. He began his career with the Aircraftsman Department in the Air Force. His last position was as deputy head of the engine repair section. He was transferred to the Atomic Energy Institute to serve as chief inspector of the atomic reactors. He last served as director of the government lottery. Concerning business, he is a member of the board of directors of the International Techboard Company and a member of the Thai Industry Association.

Dr Jomsak Chuto, minister attached to the prime minister's office, told a reporter that he had been approached by a senior person and had had an opportunity to meet General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, at his home in Sisao. Only one day before, he had been asked by the prime minister to provide help concerning public relations. As for his own opinion, he felt that the job was too big and that it carried too much responsibility but he would carry out his duties as well as possible. As for this public relations work, most people probably think that he is skilled at such work but he will have to study things and will carry out things to the best of his ability. He must first know the policies of the prime minister before he will know what must be done.

Michai Ruchuphan, minister attached to the prime minister's office, was born on 2 February 1938 in Bangchak commune, Wisetchaichan district, Ang Thong Province. He is 42 years old. He attended primary school at Bangchak primary school and high school at Annuaiwit high school. He studied hard, passed his lower and upper secondary examinations and entered Thammasat University to study law. After graduating, he received a civil service scholarship to study law at Southern Methodist University. After earning his master's degree he returned and began working at the [Department of] Legislative Redaction as a deputy secretary to the law drafting committee. At present, he is a regular member of the law drafting committee. He has served as legal counsellor to every government since the time of Sanya Thammsak. He has served as deputy secretary to the prime minister, working as secretary for Mr Somphop Hotrakit, the deputy prime minister in the government of General Kriengsak Chamanan. As for his family life, he is married to Mrs Amphorn Ruchuphan. They have two daughters.

Air Force Second Lieutenant Bunyong Wattanaphong, minister attached to the prime minister's office, was born on 30 June 1932. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science. He served as a member of the House of People's Representatives in 1969, 1975 and 1976. He was mayor of Uttradit city in 1973. He served as deputy minister of communications in 1975. His last position was as minister attached to the prime minister's office in the second Kriengsak government.

Chuan Likphai, the minister of justice, was born on 28 July 1938. He has a law degree from Thailand. He served as a member of the House of People's Representatives in 1969, 1975 and 1976. He was deputy minister of justice in 1975. He has served as minister attached to the prime minister's office and minister of justice. Before his election, he practiced law.

Dr Anuwat Wattnaphongsiri, the minister of science, technology [and energy], was born on 4 January 1930. He is 50 years old. He finished lower secondary school from a provincial high school in Buriram Province. He finished upper secondary school from Thepsirin high school. He entered Kesetsat University where he won honors in agriculture and fishing. After that, he studied law at Thammasat University. After graduating, he went to the United States where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He returned and began working at the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Concerning important positions held, he has served as head of the Children's Organization of Bangkok, head of the Bangkok Public Relations Bureau, secretary to the first governor of Bangkok Province and deputy secretary of the Bangkok Policy Research and Planning Bureau. Following that, he was selected to be deputy secretary to the prime minister and counsellor to the prime minister. His last position was as deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives. In 1976 he was elected as a representative from Buriram Province.

Mr Sippanon Ketthat, the minister of education, was born on 23 February 1930. He finished lower secondary school from Nanthanasuksa high school and upper secondary school from Triemudomsuksa high school. He received his B.S. degree from the University of California in the United States in 1953. He received his M.A. degree from Harvard in 1957. He made a tour of inspection of various universities in the United States and Europe in 1957 and 1958. Work experience: He has been an associate professor at Chulalongkorn University and was minister of education during the third Kriengsak government.

Mr Kunthong Phuphiudeun, deputy minister of education, was born on 3 May 1927 in Kalasin Province. He finished lower secondary school from the provincial high school in Kalasin Province. He took the teacher training program at Mahasankham Teachers' Training College. He received a special primary school teaching certificate and a special secondary school teaching certificate. He took a bachelor's degree in law from Thammasat University. He worked as a teacher in Kalasin Province for approximately 30 years. He was a member of the Kalasin municipal council. He served as a representative from Kalasin (Democrat Party) in 1969, 1975 and 1976. He served as deputy minister of education in April 1976 and deputy minister of interior in [words illegible] 1976.

Mr Thongyot Chittawira, the minister of public health, was born on 2 November 1909. He finished lower secondary school. He served as a municipal representative in 1950 and 1975. He was a member of the provincial council until 1974. He served as a member of the House of People's Representatives in 1957. At present, he is a member of the National Assembly. In 1974 he served as minister of commerce and in 1975 he was awarded the Prathamaphorn Changphuak medal.

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CSO: 4207

MINERAL EXTRACTION IN SOUTH FEELS IMPACT OF OIL SHORTAGE

Bangkok SIAM RAT BUSINESS WEEKLY in Thai 19 Nov 79 p 2

[Text] The mining industry is a very important element of our economy, second only to agriculture. It is important both as an earner of foreign exchange and as a supplier of raw materials to domestic industry. Last year its exports were worth 8,815.8 million baht, behind rice and tapioca.

It is believed that if production in this field were energetically promoted, it could become the country's primary source of foreign exchange. Price increases for this type of product have been greater than those for agricultural products, and foreign demand for them is high and constant.

In spite of these facts, it appears that the government attaches comparatively little importance to this sector, leaving the industry's managers to confront and resolve their own problems. It may be that other industries are seen to be in greater or more urgent need of aid, or that this sector is capable of helping itself, since returns have been high. Still, members of the industry have been working under a number of handicaps all along.

Now, however, the extractive industries must cope with a problem of such magnitude that they cannot resolve it alone. Nor will the government any longer be able to avoid extending aid.

The Problem That All Face--The Oil Shortage

Aside from the initial investment in machinery, fuel oil is the greatest expense involved in mining operations. With the rapid expansion in offshore extraction by dredging in the past 2-3 years, the quantity of oil required has increased at an even faster pace, for the vessels must move continuously, whether or not they are on an exploitable deposit. It is estimated that there were as many as 400 dredging vessels operating last year. This year the number is expected to increase, since there was a great deal of ship-building activity in preparation for this year's dredging season.

The mining vessels use diesel fuel to operate their 225 horsepower engines, and each boat may use two or three such engines, depending on the vessel's

size. Owners estimate that in 24-hour operation they use three large drums of fuel, or approximately 600 liters. When we add in the fuel required to operate the more than 4,000 small craft we can obtain an idea of the quantity of fuel oil consumed in a day or a month.

Phangnga Province is the country's number one tin producer and most of its production is from offshore extraction. At the end of last month, the governor of that province disclosed that mining activity there in one month consumed 17 million liters of oil; of this amount, dredging operations accounted for 14 million liters, while the remainder was used in conventional mining. However, the Coordinating Center for Resolution of the Oil Shortage states that its studies show the actual monthly consumption is less than 10 million liters, and that in October the Center furnished aid in the amount of 3 million liters.

We do not know what difficulty in the collection of data could cause two state agencies to come up with such disparate results. Would it not be better for the agencies to work together to obtain truly valid results and provide timely assistance to the miners, for this year's dredging season is only beginning.

It is said, "When the shortage comes, we must arrange aid to the sector where the need is most urgent." Reason does not support this. The government frequently announces that oil supplies are not at an end, that we will be able to buy oil from one country or another. If oil truly becomes scarce, it will be the government's responsibility to negotiate for supplies. How will the problem be solved by the kind of actions we have seen so far?

It is further claimed that we cannot permit so much of our foreign exchange to be spent for oil imports, because there are even greater returns from the investment and not only from the tin trade alone. It will affect our employment rate and the expansion of our domestic economy as well. If the mining operations should be forced to close down for lack of oil, you can believe that the mine operators could survive. But what of the tens of thousands of workers; how will they fare?

We are left with the fear that the oil shortage will exist only at the pump, with plentiful supplies available at elevated prices through the black market. This is a very probable development, for there will be no shortage of entrepreneurs who will not give up their investment while any alternative remains.

The result will be that the ordinary citizen suffers, since all his oil supplies will have been sold at high prices in the black market. As for the buyers, they will be able to bear the cost, because they will be using the oil to generate further profits.

Most importantly, when the mining dredges or the industry managers must buy their oil at artificially high prices, their cost of production will be driven up. This means that when the ore is sold and taxed as provided by law, the

profit margins will diminish to the point where they no longer justify the investment. These conditions will lead to even more ore being smuggled out for sale in foreign countries to evade royalties and taxes, which must be paid in addition to the high outlay for oil.

The state then will be obliged to forego a great part of the income on which it depends. Under normal conditions there is a considerable outflow of smuggled ore. Will the government accept responsibility for increasing this traffic?

The foregoing discusses only a portion of the need for oil in the mining industry. In fact, there are hundreds of dry land mining operations, large dredging vessels, and the transport of the ore, all of which require large amounts of petroleum, and all of which are experiencing great hardships resulting in reduced production.

If the government does not take steps to rectify the continued trend toward decreased production that began in the third quarter of this year, the effects will not be confined to a reduced value of exports alone. Domestic industry will be jolted as well, when supplies of raw materials are cut off. The nation's present expanding economy will instead decline.

447
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ORE SMUGGLING CAUSES LOSS IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE

Bangkok SIAM RAT BUSINESS WEEKLY in Thai 19 Nov 79 p 3

[Text] Our Thai nation is so prone to scandal that our natural resources, the wealth of our country, are likely to be squandered away. There are those who devise all manner of corrupt schemes to convert as much as possible of them into personal profit.

This is especially true in the south at present. So little remains that there is hardly any indication of the former extent of those natural resources. Tin ore is the clearest example of all. Not only do they dig, dig, dig without letup, they smuggle the ore out to sell in Singapore.

Instead of the government receiving the benefit of tax revenues, these robbers of their own country are actually stuffing their own pockets at the rate of billions of baht annually.

Listen to Mr Pathiphan Bounpraphat, Deputy Technical Director and Acting Director of the Offshore Mining Organization (MO). When he quotes his statistics, it is really alarming.

"In 1978 alone there was unauthorized dredging, both within and outside the OMO franchise area, of more than 10,000 tons of ore."

This amount represents lost government revenues of 240 million baht. Under these conditions the ore reserves in the OMO franchise area are being depleted at a startling rate. In the past 2-3 years alone, the losses have been enormous.

In the beginning the ore smugglers were legitimate miners. At that time there were few more than 200 dredges in operation.

Then, in the twinkling of an eye, their numbers increased, until now there are more than 5,000 vessels. They range from small boats to ships costing more than 10 million baht.

The drain continues with no sign of abatement. It appears, further, that it is not caused merely by local people pursuing their livelihood.

Grabbing up natural resources, cheating the nation; it seems there is no avoiding the issue of [corrupt] influence.

As everyone knows, there is but one influence clique. Surely the government cannot refuse to admit knowledge of the members' identities.

Whether the government does not know, or merely pretends not to know, let us explore the subject a bit. In fact, the OMO itself tries by every means at its disposal to stem the flow of smuggled ore. Even though they make one attempt after another, no results can be seen.

The offenders continue to break the law with elan. To cite the example of Phangnga Province, the province authorities cannot successfully combat the problem because of limited manpower. As a result, those few officials are increasingly vulnerable to corruption.

The smuggled ore is transported openly by sea. We might ask why the police do not stop it. Tell us, are their ears in the fields, or their eyes in the forests?

The Marine Police have only one [patrol] vessel. While the OMO prohibits boat traffic in certain areas, such as Na Tai, Khao Bi Lai, and Than Nun subdistricts, the prohibition is without force, for the dredge operators stake out their sites and extract their ore in deliberate mockery of the law.

The OMO must find suitable measures to suppress the smuggling of ore to Singapore for sale.

But all this controversy is leading nowhere. In the end, the problem remains unsolved.

At one time a high-ranking official of Phangnga Province submitted that when all else fails to control the illegal dredging by those with influence, then we might as well just buy the ore from them directly. The government should look at the actual facts. Instead, they only issue proclamations of prohibition, and then watch wide-eyed as corrupt influences continue to rob the nation. How long, Oh Lord?

OMO's response to this suggestion was, "We can't do that." The reason given was that if this were done it would be supporting corruption.

But there seems to be no other solution that will solve the problem that has arisen, other than letting things go on as they are.

As was stated in the beginning of the article, our nation has a very real flaw. Instead of enriching our own citizens, our natural resources are becoming the wealth of others.

The best thing that the Offshore Mining Organization can do is this: Persist in their caretaker role until the smugglers are eliminated, and stop worrying about any influence group whatever. Let the bona fide citizens of Phangnga reap the benefit of the natural resources that occur in their community.

If this can be done, it will be the best possible solution.

8866

CSO: 4207

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